



10 PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

OVERVIEW

This master plan has defined the vision, goals, and objectives for the future development of Chimney Rock State Park. After considering the three development alternatives and obtaining N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation comments, a park development program consistent with the North Carolina State Parks mission statement was identified for the park. The synthesis of these components produced the following results for the recommended facilities.

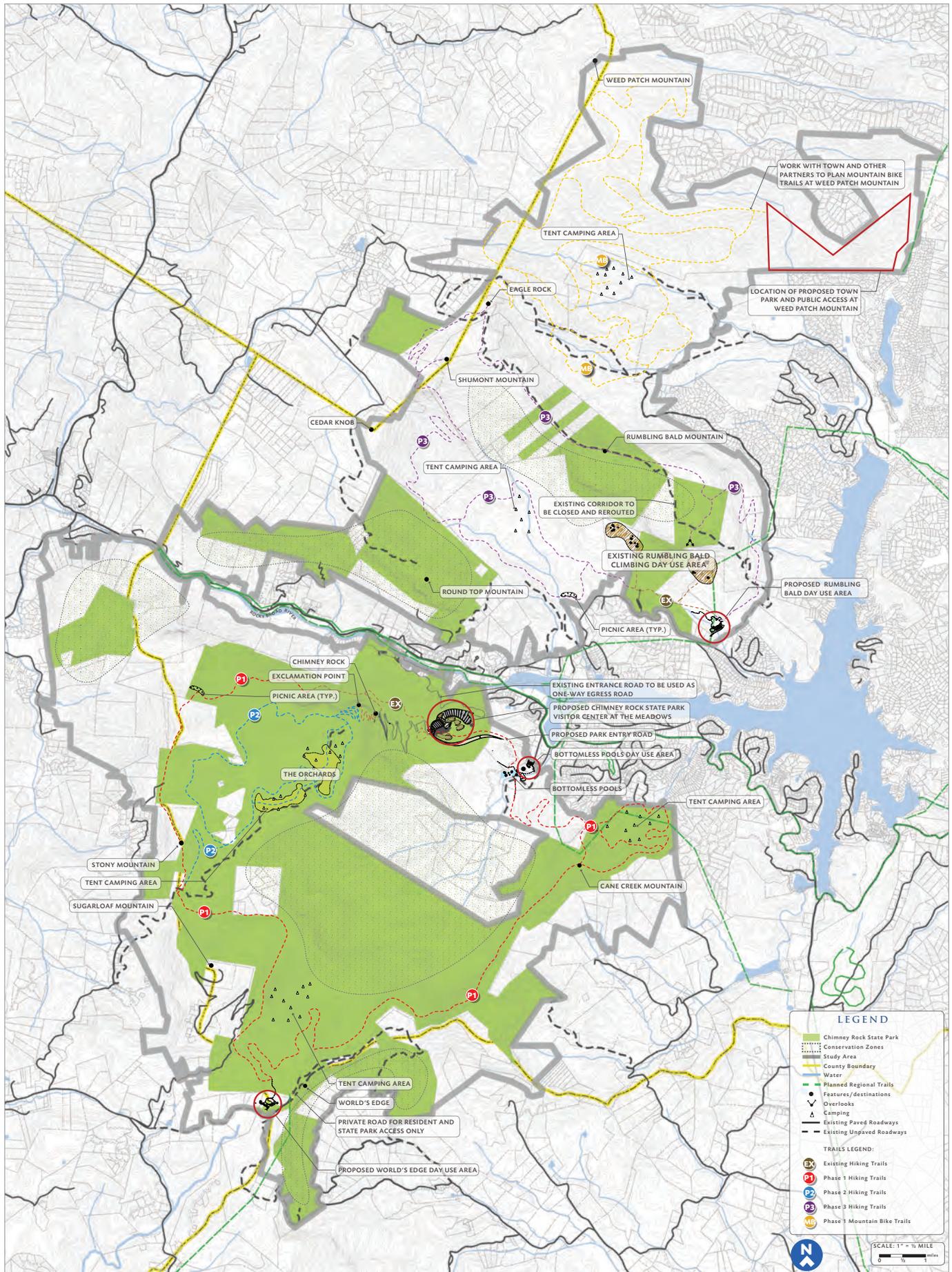
This chapter includes recommendations for future parkland acquisition, access and recreational development, interpretive opportunities, and conservation and resource management. It features detailed recommendations for existing facility improvements. A graphic of the proposed park master plan is illustrated in Figure 10.1.

The recommendations are designed to rectify operations and management concerns, correct for deficiencies in the present number and type of facilities, and to provide more opportunities for a variety of park users and visitors.



Spray cliffs at Hickory Nut Falls

FIGURE 10.1 CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK MASTER PLAN



EXISTING FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

REPAIRS AND RENOVATION

The Chimney Rock Attraction has expanded since opening in 1887 to include an entry road and bridge, entrance towers, tunnel and elevator, parking area, walkways, trails, toilet buildings, overlook deck, and several concession buildings. Many of the infrastructure additions were initiated in the 1920s and completed in the late 1940s. The concession structures were completed between the 1980s and early 2000s.

The Old Rock Café's interior and exterior will be restored and renovated. This will extend the longevity of the building and improve visitor experience. The park entrance towers are historic and iconic structures; therefore, an interpretive area will be provided with educational signage and exhibits for viewing. The interpretive area will be accessible by foot so that visitors can use the interpretive area while shopping or dining at the Village of Chimney Rock. To improve circulation and congestion issues both inside and outside the park, the existing park entrance road will be redesigned as a single outbound roadway from the Meadows to the Village of Chimney Rock. A new two-lane roadway will be built from the Town of Lake Lure to the Meadows, while the roadway from the Meadows to the Cliff Dwellers parking lot will remain a two-way road with surface improvements.

The metal warehouse, maintenance shop, park office, and attached maintenance shed will be consolidated into a new complex near the proposed visitor center at the Meadows. Relocating or rebuilding these structures will strengthen park operations, improve communications, and localize maintenance response. The ticket plaza will be redesigned and relocated as a new energy-efficient structure near the proposed visitor center. The redesign will allow both fee- and non fee-based visitation at the new visitor center. The Classroom at the Meadows, Grady's Discovery Den, and existing Toilet Building will be consolidated within the new visitor center to improve visitor experience and unify park design. Where feasible, buildings and materials will be reused. The pavilion on the Meadows will be relocated with additional picnic tables to accommodate the new visitor parking area.

The Private Lodge will be re-purposed as seasonal staff barracks. The building will be renovated and restored with sustainable materials. The retaining wall and parking area at Cliff Dwellers will be enhanced to improve the condition and to accommodate increased parking and visitation. The retaining wall will be reconstructed, the parking area will be repaved, and the stormwater network redesigned. The Cliff Dwellers Gift Shop's interior and exterior finishes will be renovated and consolidated into a one-stop shop that provides food, beverage, and gifts for sale to visitors. Parts of the elevator and tunnel are scheduled to be restored in 2011. These improvements will improve accessibility and operating efficiency while introducing the opportunity for park branding. Moonshiner's Cave will be repurposed as a geologic exhibit, a theme that is more consistent with N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation's mission. To provide improved educational facilities directly at the source, the Sky Lounge will become an interpretive area. Concessions, café seating, and the Sky Lounge gift shop will be relocated elsewhere in the park.

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING TRAILS

Many of the existing trails are in need of maintenance and improvements to better serve the growing recreational needs of park visitors. Some of these trails were poorly sited and constructed and are therefore not sustainable. Improving the trail tread in heavily overused areas to limit user impacts may prevent the need for rerouting. A comprehensive interpretive signage network will promote park resources while protecting natural areas.

The entire stair structure and park boardwalk network will be inventoried for structural integrity. Boardwalks that are heavily overused will be rebuilt, and non-skid materials will be used in damp areas. Improvements to the structures will extend the life of the boardwalks and improve visitor safety. A project to improve a



section of the stair network will commence in 2012. The Great Woodland Adventure Trail will be continually maintained and expanded as needs arise. Future trail connections will be provided. The Four Seasons Trail will be improved to protect natural resources and improve the quality of the trail. In areas with heavy overuse, boardwalk will be constructed to reduce erosion and long-term impacts to surrounding ecology. Hickory Nut Falls Trail will be continually maintained to improve visitor experience. Adequate lookout areas and seating will be provided. Increased visitation may further trail overuse and trail hardening may be considered in eroded areas. The Outcroppings Trail is heavily overused and consistently maintained. Stair structures will be rebuilt that are in need of repair, and non-skid materials will be used in damp areas. The use of sustainable materials will extend the life of the structures and increase visitor safety. Pulpit Rock, the Subway, and the Grotto will be reopened as trail destinations after structural improvements are made to the boardwalk and trails. The Skyline Trail to Exclamation Point has a 200-foot gain in elevation; therefore gravel or natural surfacing are not feasible materials for the long term of this trail. More structural surfacing will be provided such as boardwalk or stair trails to improve overall maintenance and visitor experience.

Additional miles of undesignated footpaths and jeep trails are located on the recently acquired properties. No signage currently exists on these undesignated corridors. Because these footpaths and jeep trails were poorly sited and constructed, they have become severely denuded in many areas and are considered unusable. A comprehensive trails review will be conducted by the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation prior to any new trail construction. Once newly designated trails have been established at Chimney Rock State Park, the remaining footpaths and jeep trails will be closed for public use and allowed to naturalize.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR REPAIRS AND RENOVATION: \$850,000

PROPOSED VISITOR CENTER AT THE MEADOWS

Chimney Rock State Park affords opportunities for recreation, education, and stewardship of western North Carolina's most unique and significant natural resources. The development of a park visitor center will provide a focal point for interpretive programs, a hub for natural resource-based recreation, and more efficient park operations, patrol, and management.

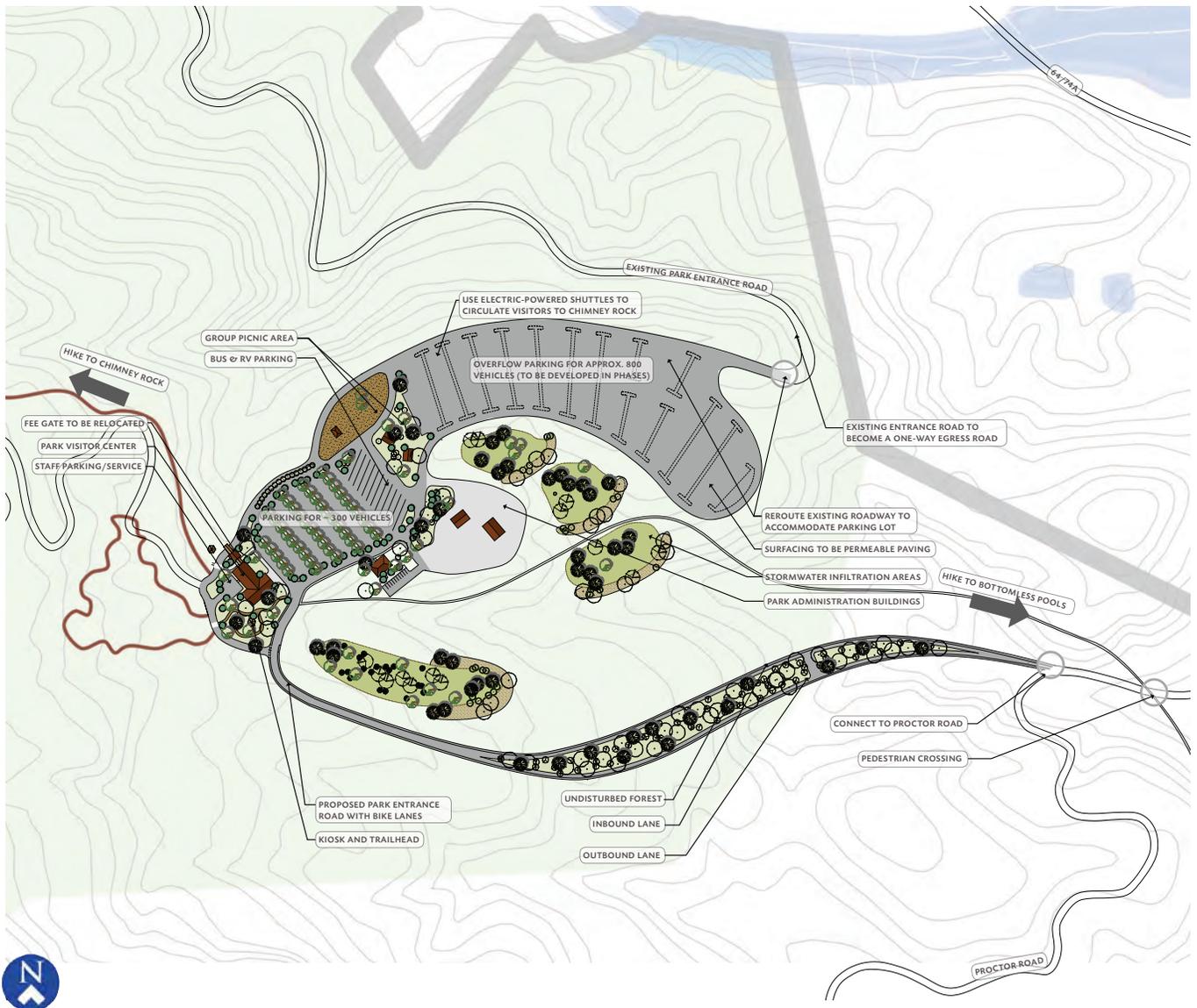
The Meadows is a four-acre, relatively flat parcel of land located on park property along the existing park entrance road. It is currently used by the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation as seasonal overflow parking and is the location for Grady's Discovery Den. Just south of the Meadows is the fee gate and other park facility buildings. The actual footprint of the "Meadows area" is approximately 15 acres of total developable land for a visitor center. Existing roadway and utility access are already in place. This location also strengthens the central park core concept, and allows the park visitor to experience the park in its natural setting. If the fee gate and park administration buildings were integrated with the proposed visitor building on the Meadows' high point, the remaining amount of space would be available for visitor and overflow parking (see Figure 10.2).

DESIGN CONCEPT

The Chimney Rock State Park visitor center will have the capability to serve a broad range of park visitors, as identified in Chapter 4. The visitor center will offer diverse opportunities for recreation and education. The surrounding trails and facility will engage visitors with a 15-minute visit to obtain park information, or a full day of experiencing interpretive areas, hiking, educational programs, and exhibits. The visitor center will become a hub for regional recreational opportunities and local activities to accommodate diverse visitor interests and backgrounds. Visitors of all abilities will have the opportunity to explore the facility and design their own experience at the park.



FIGURE 10.2: VISITOR CENTER AT THE MEADOWS



VISITOR CENTER

The main visitor center will be 6,500 square feet and constructed at the western end of the Meadows. The building will be designed and implemented using green building strategies aimed at Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification. A facility this size could accommodate 300-400 people at a time. Maintenance and storage will also be located onsite. Utilities are already available at the Meadows and will need improvements to meet the demands of the proposed facilities. The amount of space onsite provides an opportunity to treat stormwater locally with innovative solutions such as infiltration gardens and bioretention areas. These areas will become educational tools to incorporate into interpretive programming. Alternative energy sources such as solar and geothermal heating and cooling will be used to the extent feasible.

DAY USE

The fee gate will be relocated further up the entrance road so that visitors who access the visitor center obtain information without paying a fee. Those who wish to drive and park at the Chimney Rock elevator will pay admission at the fee gate. Picnic areas, short trails and interpretive areas will be located around the visitor center as well as access to extended trails across the park. A contact station will be located within the



visitor center where visitors can purchase permits and daily parking passes. Information will be available for other park activities and day use areas with directions and maps.

PARKING

Paved parking will be available for bus and RV parking, with spaces for 300 vehicles. A separate parking area will be provided for ranger vehicles and park staff at the rear of the visitor center. For the paved areas, permeable solutions will be used to the extent feasible. Further soil and drainage improvements will be necessary if permeable solutions are used. Overflow parking has the option to be phased into construction based on budget costs and demand, accommodating up to an additional 500 vehicles.

PROPOSED ENTRANCE ROAD

In order to satisfy the increase in visitation and reduce vehicle congestion, a new two-way entrance road is proposed that will connect the visitor center parking area to Proctor Road. The new entrance road will be constructed on a wide, flat ridge that exists between a stream along the eastern edge of the Meadows and southern parts of Proctor Road. From its intersection at the first bend along Proctor Road, the new half-mile road will feature a split inbound and outbound lane design to minimize impact to the existing forest canopy. The lower section of Proctor Road will be improved to accommodate the additional park traffic.

The roadway will be built to modern standards, capable of supporting RVs, vehicles with trailers, and buses, and will also contain bicycle lanes on both the inbound and outbound lanes. It will be designed for low speed traffic with narrow lanes and minimal cut and fill. This new road will become the Chimney Rock State Park entrance road, while the former entrance road will become a one-way egress road to Chimney Rock Village. Peak visitation in the park occurs in the early morning and mid-day hours, before Chimney Rock Village merchants are open for business. Transforming the current entrance road into a one-way exit road will deliver state park visitors to Chimney Rock Village where they can shop and dine during late morning, afternoon and evening hours. The Meadows will be designed to direct existing traffic flow into the Village of Chimney Rock.

Additionally, the existing park road from the Meadows to the Cliff Dwellers parking area will be improved and widened. This project would add or improve retaining walls, add culverts for stormwater drainage and upgrade the utilities. Utility improvements include a new water line with pump stations, gravity sewer line, and telecommunications and electric lines.

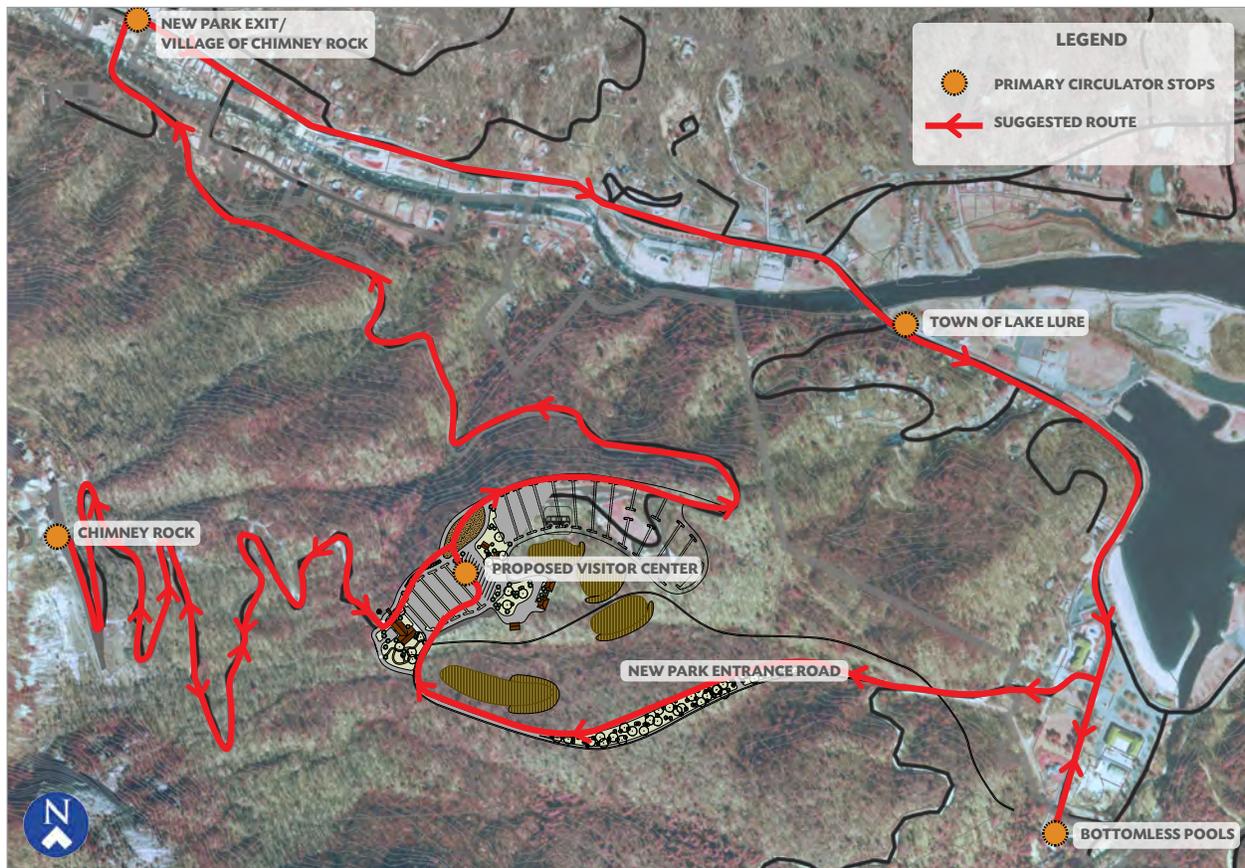
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR VISITOR CENTER AT THE MEADOWS: \$20,751,200

HICKORY NUT GORGE TRANSIT CIRCULATOR

The Hickory Nut Gorge Transit Circulator is a bus system that would shuttle visitors to and from destinations in the Hickory Nut Gorge. Partnerships could be developed among the local Tourism Development Authority, Chimney Rock Village, the Town of Lake Lure, and other regional stakeholders to help sponsor the circulator and stimulate the local economy by developing a communications strategy that encourages visitors to support local businesses. Providing an alternative transportation option will also help the young, disabled, and senior citizens enjoy more of the region's attractions. The introduction of an electric or natural gas-powered transit circulator will do more than help mitigate parking concerns and reduce traffic volumes. Reducing the number of vehicles entering the gorge will also cut down on emissions and improve air quality.



FIGURE 10.3: TRANSIT CIRCULATOR ROUTE



SUGGESTED ROUTE

Figure 10.3 illustrates a potential route for the circulator. The transit circulator's route will begin at the visitor center in Chimney Rock State Park. Operating clockwise, the vehicle will exit the one-way egress road and stop at Chimney Rock Village, Town of Lake Lure, and the Bottomless Pools day use area. The circulator will return to the visitor center via the proposed entrance road from Proctor Road. Concurrently, an internal circulator will transport visitors to and from the visitor center and the Chimney Rock elevator. The final routes will be determined with input from stakeholders. Covered kiosk stops will be developed displaying detailed regional maps, brochures, and graphics which clearly depict the region's features and attractions.

FREQUENCY OF SHUTTLES

Shuttle speed, number of stops, size and number of vehicles, and vehicle capacity in turn define the frequency of the circulator. In addition, peak season and surrounding traffic congestion will also impact operations. To ensure that the circulator is convenient to use, it will be important to provide frequent loops, especially during peak season. Vehicles will travel anywhere from 10-20 miles per hour and have the capacity to transport 10 to 25 patrons. While shuttles that are large have the capacity for higher numbers of visitors, slower average speeds make for increased headways between stops. The roadways at Chimney Rock State Park are narrow and winding in many areas. Providing smaller, maneuverable vehicles at more frequent intervals will contribute to an improved visitor experience. Headways of no more than 15 minutes at each stop are recommended to encourage use.

Careful planning with other stakeholders for the operations and management of the circulator will be crucial to its success. Addressing key trip generators, patterns, vehicle type and size, number of vehicles, operating hours, and ridership potential will require a more detailed study.



PROPOSED DAY USE AREAS

Several new day use areas are proposed that will provide user access to the south, central, and north regions of Chimney Rock State Park. Information, signage, and maps will be available for each day use area at the proposed visitor center. The following locations will be located and designed to protect areas of significant natural heritage and provide a wider variety of opportunities for park users to experience Chimney Rock State Park. At a minimum, each day use area will include vehicle parking, contact stations, a toilet building, hiking trail connections, and adequate receptacles to manage refuse. For all proposed day use areas, buildings will be designed and implemented using green building strategies.

WORLD'S EDGE

One of the southernmost destinations in Chimney Rock State Park, World's Edge takes its name from the one-mile long series of steep, southeast-facing slopes that fall away to sweeping views of the Hickory Nut Gorge. Residing in an area rich with significant natural communities, World's Edge is remote, wild, and attractive to hikers.

South at the end of World's Edge Road, a 29-acre tract of land stretches along the World's Edge escarpment. The tract's proximity to World's Edge Road and the amount of developable space make it an ideal location for day use that could accompany visitor parking and picnic areas. An existing residence on the property provides ample space for an interpretive area with exhibits and an information desk. A large deck at the rear of the residence affords 180-degree views out to the western piedmont, making it an ideal viewing platform. In addition, smaller rooms in the main residence could serve as park office space and storage. Figure 10.4 illustrates the proposed layout of facilities at World's Edge.

A ranger residence or remote patrol cabin is proposed at World's Edge due to its distance from the proposed visitor center. Travel times on existing roadways from the Chimney Rock State Park entrance to World's Edge exceed 45 minutes. The ranger residence will be located on existing park property at the north side of World's Edge Road. A ranger residence will improve operations and patrol and allow for southern park access for park staff. The development of this project will require the acquisition of additional land.

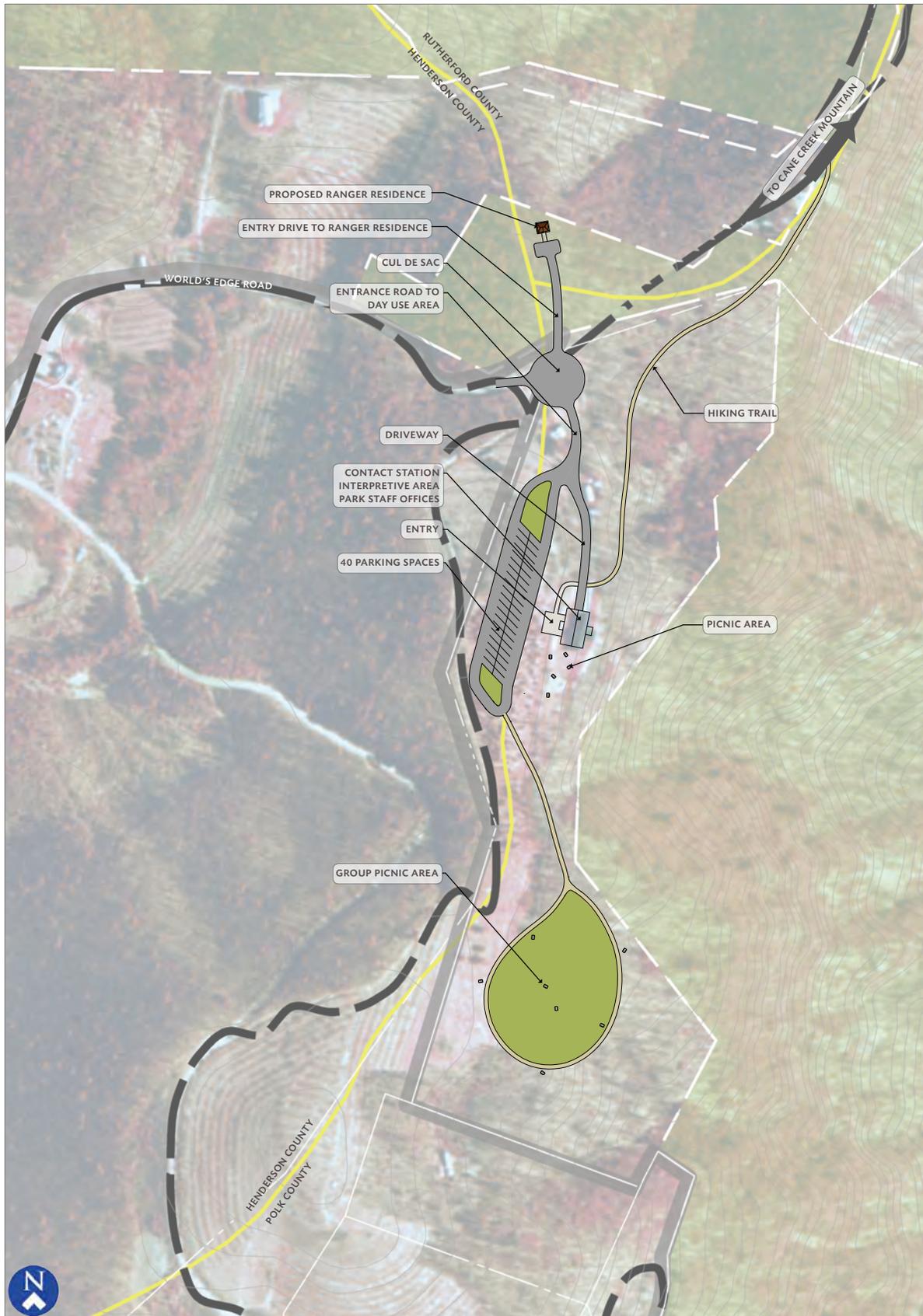
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR WORLD'S EDGE DAY USE AREA: \$650,000



View from World's Edge



FIGURE 10.4: WORLD'S EDGE DAY USE AREA



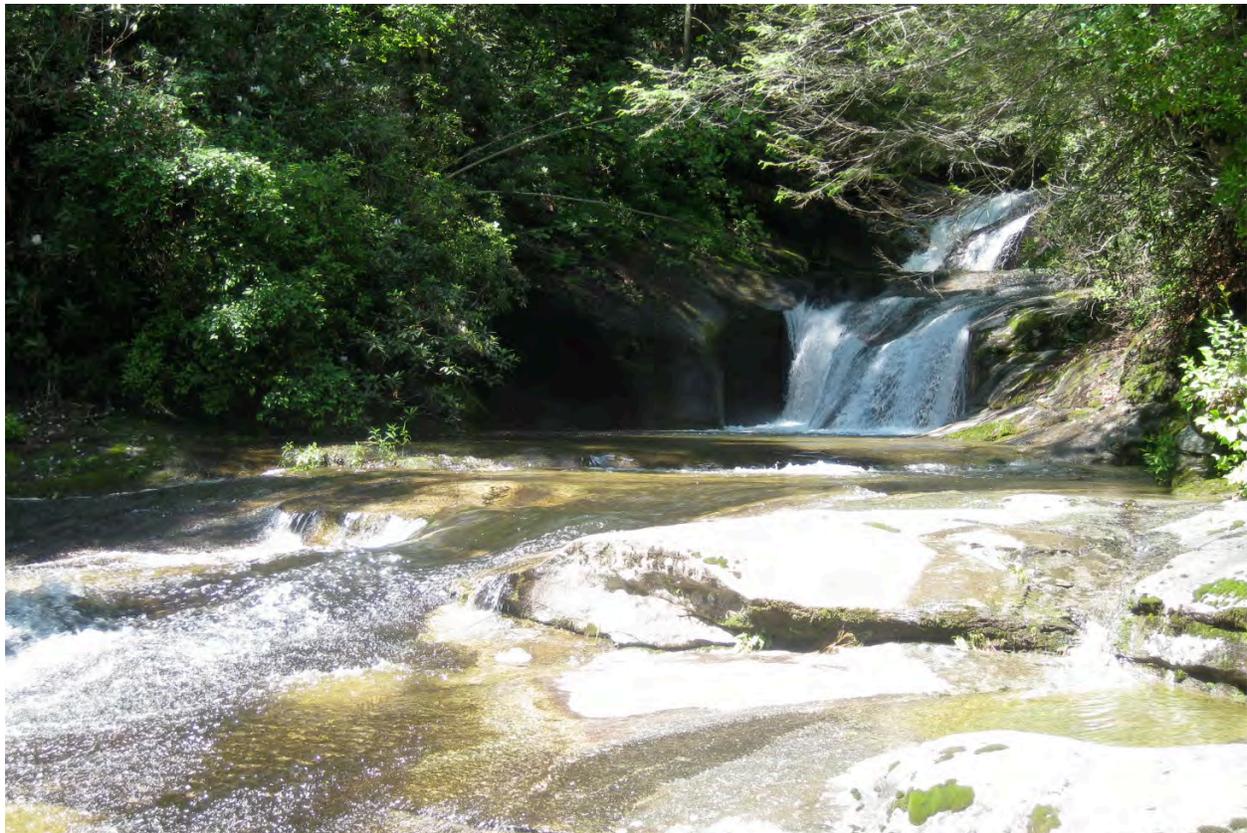


BOTTOMLESS POOLS

The historic Bottomless Pools attraction is proposed to be reopened as a day use area. Reopening of the attraction will require acquisition of additional land. The historic home at Bottomless Pools will be renovated and re-used as a contact station or information center. Some elements of the historic attraction will be restored and reopened for public access and use. For example, the trail system will be restored and constructed to provide new observation platforms for viewing the famed Bottomless Pools.

South of Lake Lure Inn, where Beach Street connects with Bottomless Pools Road, there is adequate space for a driveway entrance and parking for 50 vehicles (see Figure 10.5). To limit costs and preserve the character of the Bottomless Pools, the covered bridge will be restored and reopened to pedestrian traffic only. This will permit viewing of the pools and cut down on vehicle congestion and the necessity for more paved surfacing. Interpretive areas will be located in and around the bridge and near the pools, and to the extent desired by N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, buildings renovated and operated as historic exhibits. Visitors will enjoy short hiking opportunities, picnicking, observation and interpretive areas at the pools, and connections to extended hiking trails to Chimney Rock and Cane Creek Mountain.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR BOTTOMLESS POOLS DAY USE AREA: \$700,000



Bottomless Pools



FIGURE 10.5: BOTTOMLESS POOLS DAY USE AREA



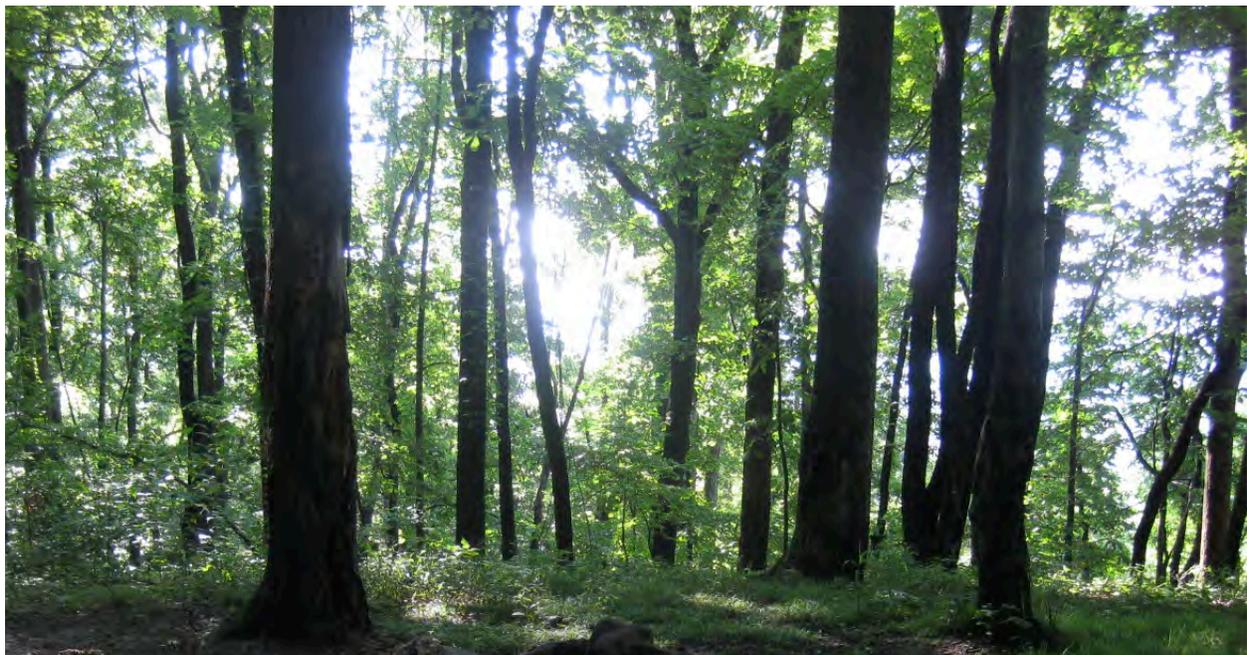


RUMBLING BALD

The existing climbing day use area at Rumbling Bald, located off Boys Camp Road, provides parking for 35 vehicles and trail connections to climbing and bouldering areas. Much of the climbing areas and trails at Rumbling Bald are in need of maintenance and improvements to better serve the growing recreational needs of visitors and to protect natural resources. The demand for access and use at this location is not satisfied with the current parking capacity and therefore needs to be expanded in the future. To ensure that Rumbling Bald will accommodate growing visitation, an additional day use area is proposed further east at the end of Boys Camp Road to include additional parking and sanitary facilities. This new facility will allow for increased access to regional hiking and other activities while taking the pressure off the existing climbing day use area. Figure 10.6 shows a potential layout for the proposed day use area. Where Boys Camp Road ends and becomes unpaved, a large flat area is the location for this additional day use area at Rumbling Bald.

A contact station is proposed at the Rumbling Bald day use area, along with parking for approximately 75 vehicles. Where feasible, all parking areas will feature permeable surfacing materials, and stormwater will be treated locally through infiltration gardens or bioretention areas. A toilet building, picnic area and kiosk is also proposed. From the proposed Rumbling Bald day use area, visitors will access loop trails as well as connections to Rumbling Bald.

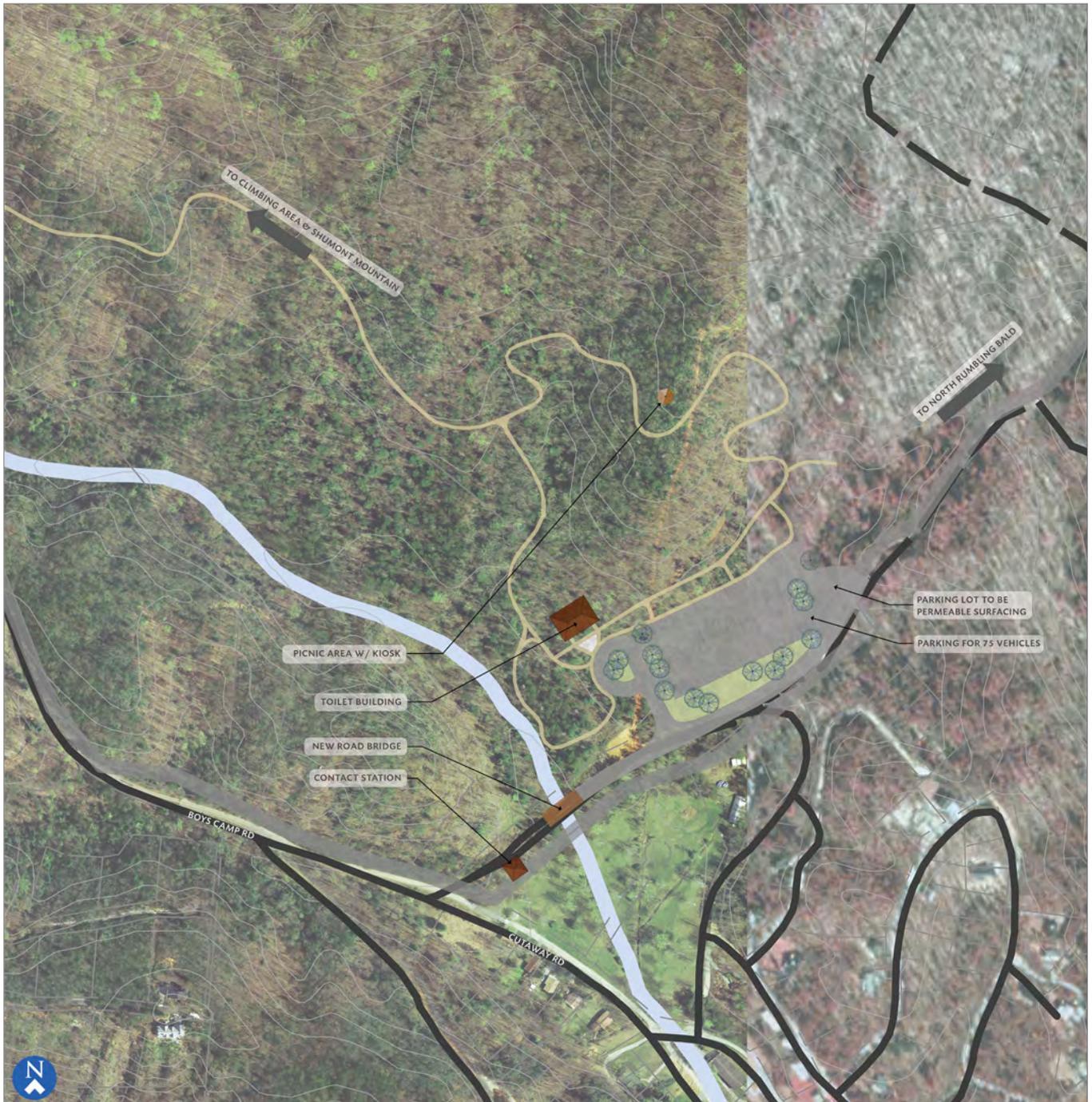
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR RUMBLING BALD DAY USE AREA: \$940,200



Under the tree canopy at Rumbling Bald



FIGURE 10.6: RUMBLING BALD DAY USE AREA





RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK

Chimney Rock State Park's 4,531 acres are principally untouched landscapes. It provides habitat for some of the most significant wildlife communities in the country. Its resources have the potential to make it a world-class destination for natural resource-based recreation. A combination of use and protection must be achieved that blends conservation, protection, and preservation of natural resources with access and enjoyment of those features. The following items should be considered when developing recreational activities at Chimney Rock State Park:

- Separate all proposed trails, picnicking, day use areas, and camping away from documented sensitive natural resource areas. Reroute existing trails if their alignment threatens wildlife habitat, is unsustainable, or compromises public safety.
- Develop a signage program for the park that includes wayfinding, regulatory, and environmental education signage for the natural heritage areas.
- Develop a park map and brochure that details allowable activities and depicts recreational opportunities offered in Chimney Rock State Park.
- Provide a range of recreational options at various skill levels for a diverse visitor experience.

REGIONAL HIKING TRAILS

A regional greenway and trail system is emerging throughout the Hickory Nut Gorge and Lake Lure region. This system is comprised of four important trails:

- Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Trail
- Lake Lure Summits Trail
- Town of Lake Lure Trails and Greenways
- Chimney Rock State Park Trails

The majority of the regional trail system is planned and designed to serve the needs of hikers, walkers and nature lovers. Some elements of the regional trail network may support equestrians and mountain biking.

The Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Trail extends from Hickory Nut Gap, Little Pisgah Mountain and Bear Wallow Mountain to Gerton Village, then on to Bearwallow Village, over Raven Rock and Blue Rock Mountain and on to World's Edge in Chimney Rock State Park. The total distance of this proposed trail is more than 60 miles.

The Town of Lake Lure has a plan to establish an extensive network of greenways and trails. The adopted 2010 Comprehensive Plan for Lake Lure illustrates a greenway network that extends around the lake, and links with adjacent streams to provide connections to residential, commercial, retail and tourist areas of the town. Portions of the proposed greenway also extend to Chimney Rock State Park.

An extensive hiking trail system is planned for Chimney Rock State Park, comprised of a southern loop trail, the Chimney Rock Mountain Loop Trail, and hiking trails in the northern portions of the park, principally on and around Rumbling Bald Mountain. The total distance of proposed trails is approximately 50 miles. Trail users in the northern section of the park will be able to connect to the southern section of the park by way of the town's greenway system.



PROPOSED HIKING TRAILS

A substantial amount of new hiking trails in Chimney Rock State Park are recommended in this master plan. Trails of various difficulty, length, and interest are proposed to provide a diverse experience that will be enjoyed by the park visitor, regardless of ability. Families, senior citizens, and experienced hikers will have the ability to design their trip to their interest.

A comprehensive signage program will be provided that communicates trail distances, times, and destinations for all proposed trails. Trail destinations will be opportunities for educational exhibits and interpretive signage. An example of a typical hiking trail at Chimney Rock State Park is shown in Figure 10.7.

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK TRAILS

A new sustainable route for the Skyline Trail was established in the master planning process to take trail enthusiasts to new observation areas where historical, breathtaking views of Hickory Nut Gorge, Lake Lure and Hickory Nut Falls can be enjoyed. Figure 10.8 illustrates the new realigned trail.

Historically, the Skyline Trail and Cliff Trail have provided hikers with access to some of the highest elevations and most stunning natural resources of Chimney Rock Mountain. These breathtaking trails have been some of the most beloved in the history of Chimney Rock Park. In 2008, the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation closed portions of these trails in order to evaluate them for future access and use.



FIGURE 10.7: TYPICAL HIKING TRAIL

It is important that Chimney Rock State Park balance the conservation, protection and preservation of natural resources with access and enjoyment of those resources. The former alignment of the Cliff Trail and upper portion of the Skyline Trail cannot be properly managed to support public access and use, due to environmental factors, concerns regarding public health, safety and welfare, and budget constraints.

Therefore, the Cliff Trail and upper portion of the Skyline Trail will be dismantled and removed. The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation will explore opportunities to work with an outdoor adventure contractor that offers mountaineering or other high adventure recreation access along the route of the former Cliff Trail.

A new trail alignment will be established from Exclamation Point along the top of Chimney Rock Mountain to designated observation areas on top of the mountain. Observation platforms will be constructed to provide views of the top of Hickory Nut Falls, Hickory Nut Gorge and Lake Lure. The trail will stay inside the existing tree line and off the cliff faces of Chimney Rock Mountain.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR NEW SKYLINE TRAIL ALIGNMENT: \$163,000

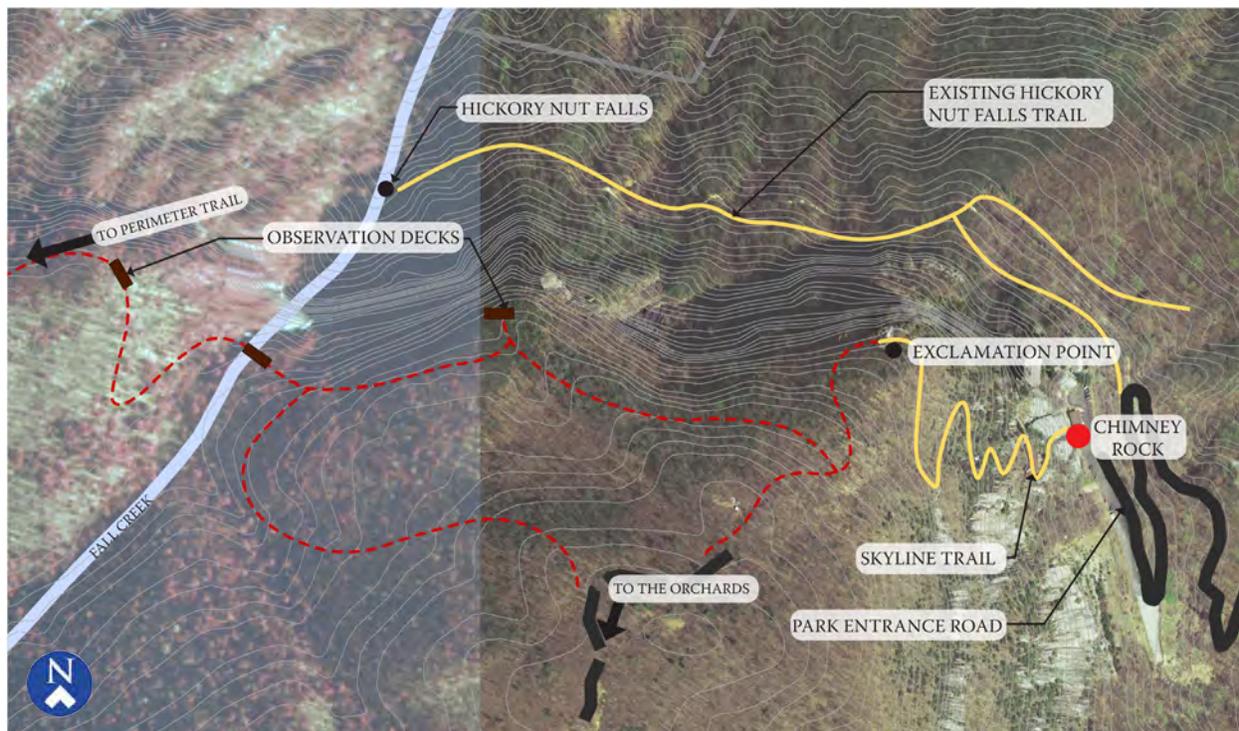
A second trail alignment will be established that extends to the proposed primitive campground located at the Orchards, and connects to the proposed Chimney Rock Perimeter Trail.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR ORCHARDS LOOP TRAIL: \$350,000

PERIMETER TRAIL

The perimeter trail proposed at Chimney Rock State Park is an extended, multi-day experience for long distance hikers of all abilities. The perimeter trail showcases the biologically diverse natural resources within the park while offering hike-in primitive camping in a secluded environment. Trail users will access

FIGURE 10.8: ATTRACTION TRAILS





the 15-mile perimeter trail from several park locations. Visitors will enjoy hiking the ridges of Cane Creek Mountain, World's Edge, and Sugarloaf Mountain. Short, looped hiking options will also be provided near the day use areas. Hikers will enjoy Pool Creek and views from Stony and Rich Mountain. Access to hike-in primitive camping will be available from most day use areas.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR PERIMETER TRAIL: \$612,000

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR WORLD'S EDGE TRAIL: \$152,000

CANE CREEK LOOP TRAIL

A proposed trail in the central section of the park will connect the visitor center at the Meadows to Bottomless Pools. This trail will connect with local town greenways so visitors can access adjacent regional activities. Visitors at the proposed day use area at Bottomless Pools will have the option to connect to two looped trails at the northeast part of the Cane Creek Mountain Trail.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR CANE CREEK LOOP TRAIL: \$117,000

NORTHERN CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK TRAILS

Hiking trails in northern Chimney Rock State Park are proposed around southern Rumbling Bald, Shumont Mountain, and Eagle Rock. From Eagle Rock, trails will be routed south of the summit, away from residences. An existing jeep trail extends from Eagle Rock along the ridgeline of Rumbling Bald Mountain. While parts of the jeep trail are usable for hiking, eastern portions of this trail are dangerously eroded and will need rerouting to the north to sustain foot traffic and to protect adjacent natural resources.

Backcountry trails are proposed at the far reaches north of Rumbling Bald, where hike-in primitive camping will be available. Backcountry trails in this location are more remote and further from day use areas. Connections to Weed Patch Mountain through mountain biking trails will also be possible from this area in northern Chimney Rock State Park. Vehicle access and trailhead facilities to northern Rumbling Bald and Weed Patch Mountain will be developed through a partnership with the Town of Lake Lure and other stakeholders.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR RUMBLING BALD MOUNTAIN TRAILS:
\$1,064,000

All proposed Chimney Rock State Park trails will be designed sustainably, using natural surfaces and following existing contours. Sustainable trails are designed for continual visitor use with minimized impacts. All trails will be constructed with low impact machinery or by hand, where feasible. A successful network of sustainably designed and constructed trails will control stormwater and erosion, keep users on the designated trails, and limit maintenance requirements.

HIKE-IN/PRIMITIVE CAMPING

Hike-in/primitive camping will be available to Chimney Rock State Park visitors. Currently, no camping is permitted at the park, but the demand for a wide range of camping was indicated through the public input process.

No more than eight tent sites will be located at each primitive campground. Fire rings may be permitted at some locations. Wherever possible, primitive camping areas will be sited so as to not degrade the viewshed. All proposed sites will be located away from residences and roadways.

Primitive campgrounds are proposed at Cane Creek Mountain, near World's Edge, at the Orchards, and near the proposed Rumbling Bald day use area. Access to these sites will only be available on foot.



PRIMITIVE GROUP CAMPING

Camping facilities for organized groups will be based on reservations and will accommodate 10-15 tents. Providing group campsites eliminates displacement of other users from single campsites by large groups. Group camping also reduces noise and overcrowding in primitive camping areas. Primitive group camping will be provided at the Orchards only.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR PRIMITIVE CAMPSITES THROUGHOUT PARK:
\$200,000

PICNICKING

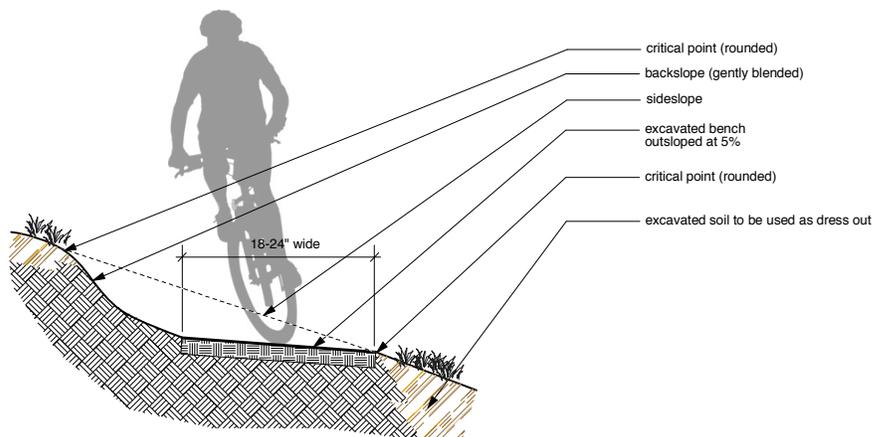
The demand for picnicking facilities continues to grow among park visitors. Existing picnic sites at the attraction are located at waysides along the park entrance road and do not provide adequate space or respite. Proposed picnic areas will be located away from major roadways and include seating, tables, and trash and recycling receptacles at a minimum. Picnicking will be made available to park visitors at all day use areas and at the visitor center. Picnicking will be permitted along the hiking trails in north and south Chimney Rock State Park, however a “leave-no-trace” policy will prevail.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

A single-track mountain bike trail system is proposed on the Weed Patch Mountain and King tracts to provide a type of trail experience not currently available in the park. Visitors will access Weed Patch Mountain through property owned by the Town of Lake Lure from Buffalo Creek Road. The Town of Lake Lure plans to implement a parking area, trailhead, hiking, and mountain biking facilities at this location. A cooperative agreement with the Town of Lake Lure and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation will need to be established regarding the joint operations of this area.

Partnership opportunity is possible with the region’s nonprofit mountain biking organization. The Southeastern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) works with land managers across the southeastern United States to design, construct, and maintain trail networks for mountain biking. SORBA specializes in the design and construction of sustainable trails. If implemented, SORBA trail builders will adhere to International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) design guidelines for all proposed mountain bike trails in Chimney Rock State Park and work closely with park staff to design and implement the trails. Figure 10.9 shows a typical mountain bike trail design proposed at Chimney Rock State Park.

FIGURE 10.9: TYPICAL MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL



Design guideline information obtained from IMBA



EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

Equestrian trails are popular in mountainous regions because horses can negotiate steep terrain in remote areas. Typically, horses require a minimum trail width of at least six feet and a preferred width of 12 feet. Vertical clearances are between 10-12 feet. Although natural tread is recommended, the sub-base and sub-grade of the trail must be compacted to accommodate horses and their riders. Access roads that can support vehicles towing trailers, large parking and staging areas, and access to water will be necessary to support equestrians. These facilities can demand a substantial amount of flat space, a condition that is limited at Chimney Rock State Park.

Opportunities for equestrian trails and facilities were examined within the study area. The only area identified as potentially suitable for either mountain biking and equestrian use in the master plan study area is on the Weed Patch Mountain tract. The only identified access to Weed Patch Mountain tract will be in cooperation with the Town of Lake Lure's planned town park at Buffalo Creek Rd. Due to topographical constraints, the town park will have very limited parking and cannot accommodate equestrian use. As such, equestrian use at Chimney Rock State Park cannot be reasonably provided at this time. Future master plan revisions could consider equestrian use if suitable land with access becomes available. Table 10.2 identifies equestrian opportunities in vicinity to the park.

TABLE 10.2: EQUESTRIAN TRAILS NEAR CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK

NAME	LOCATION
River Side Riding Stables	Chimney Rock
Brunner Stables	Hendersonville
Moses Cone Park	Blue Ridge Parkway
Holly View Farm	Dupont State Forest
The Walk Inn	Dupont State Forest
South Toe River Area	Pisgah National Forest
Tsali Horse Trail	Tsali Recreation Area

ROCK CLIMBING

Rock climbing and bouldering has been a popular recreational activity in the Hickory Nut Gorge for more than 30 years. The Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) and the Access Fund have been active in their role for public land conservation, including the purchase of a six-acre tract on the west side of the Rumbling Bald boulder fields. Chimney Rock State Park currently operates public climbing access from the Rumbling Bald Climbing Day Use Area. Rock climbing occurs along the south facing cliffs of Rumbling Bald and the adjacent boulder fields. The south face of Rumbling Bald contains a network of trails that connect to the climbing cliffs and boulder fields owned by the CCC and The Nature Conservancy. Due to the site's lack of historical land management and growth in popularity, user impacts have been concentrated at Rumbling Bald. These heavily used areas should be restored through cooperative work between the CCC and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. Fox Mountain Guides operates fee-based climbing clinics at the base of Chimney Rock Mountain.

Many of the desired climbing and bouldering areas in the Chimney Rock State Park study area are located in nationally significant natural heritage areas with sensitive ecosystems. Using data from the Natural Heritage and Natural Resources programs, the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation will work closely with the CCC and the climbing community to develop a comprehensive climbing and bouldering management



plan that determines the extent of opening additional climbing and bouldering areas in the park. The future comprehensive climbing and bouldering management plan should follow three basic conditions to satisfy the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation's goal of balancing conservation, recreation, and education:

- 1) *Climbing and bouldering areas in the state park must be on lands owned by the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.* Although the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation provides access to the south face of Rumbling Bald from the climbing day use area on Boys Camp Road, much of the south facing climbing area is on privately-owned property. Access to other popular climbing areas not currently owned by the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation will be determined by the existing landowners. The comprehensive climbing and bouldering management plan will focus on areas currently owned by state parks.
- 2) *Climbing and bouldering areas must have proper road access.* All state park climbing and bouldering access areas must have a safe, legal, accessible public access. If adequate parking isn't already available, access areas must be feasible for the development of low impact parking areas and hiking trails to the climbing areas. Land in climbing access areas must be owned by either the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation or by a partnering organization or agency.
- 3) *Climbing and bouldering routes and access areas must not negatively impact the park's natural resources.* Protecting natural resources from potential recreational activity impacts will be fact-based, using data obtained from the Natural Heritage Program and Natural Resources Program.

The comprehensive climbing and bouldering management plan will require significant input, discussion, and field verification between the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, the climbing community, and other stakeholders. Careful consideration will be given to additional climbing area proposals, but in some instances, preventing climbing access in highly sensitive areas will be necessary in order to protect fragile and rare ecosystems. Using the conditions stated above, the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation will work with the climbing community to consider opening additional climbing areas through the development of a comprehensive climbing and bouldering management plan.

INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

Part of the mission of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation is to interpret and promote the state's natural heritage and environmental resources. It is also a primary goal of the master plan for Chimney Rock State Park. In addition to the educational facilities proposed at the visitor center, a variety of opportunities exist to interpret the natural heritage of the park and the region. The development of an interpretive network is recommended that will correspond with all proposed trails at Chimney Rock State Park. The network will be self-guided or organized by park staff as guided hikes or educational programs.

The beautiful scenery in Chimney Rock State Park will be enjoyed from vistas and viewing platforms that incorporate interpretive signage. The overlooks will be strategically located along trails and at some day use areas. It is essential that these areas not encroach on any viewsheds or natural resources. Situating overlooks on heavily vegetated bluffs and away from toilet buildings or concessions will help to control noise and crowding.

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT BUDGET COSTS

<u>DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</u>	<u>BUDGET COST</u>
Repairs and Renovation	\$850,000
Visitor Center at the Meadows	\$20,751,200
World's Edge Day Use Area	\$650,000
Bottomless Pools Day Use Area	\$700,000
Rumbling Bald Day Use Area	\$940,200
New Skyline Trail Alignment	\$163,000
Orchards Loop Trail	\$351,000
Perimeter Trail	\$612,000
World's Edge Trail	\$152,000
Cane Creek Loop Trail	\$117,000
Rumbling Bald Mountain Trails	\$1,064,000
<u>Primitive Campsites</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>
TOTAL	\$26,550,400



LAND ACQUISITION OBJECTIVES

Natural resource protection, scenic preservation, outdoor recreation, and public access will continue to be the primary purposes for which N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation should acquire land to expand Chimney Rock State Park over the next 50 years. A land objectives map is illustrated in Figure 10.10 and summarized on the following pages.

PRIMARY RESOURCE PROTECTION

The protection of significant natural resources such as significant natural heritage areas, rare species habitat or significant land identified in the biodiversity assessment of the conservation planning tool.

SCENIC RESOURCE PROTECTION

The protection views of and from the mountains around Lake Lure including Chimney Rock itself.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

The protection of water quality of streams in the state park and flowing from the state park. These include Pool Creek, Wolf Creek, Fall Creek and parts of the Broad River.

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

Land identified for future state park facilities such as picnic areas and trail heads.

BUFFERS

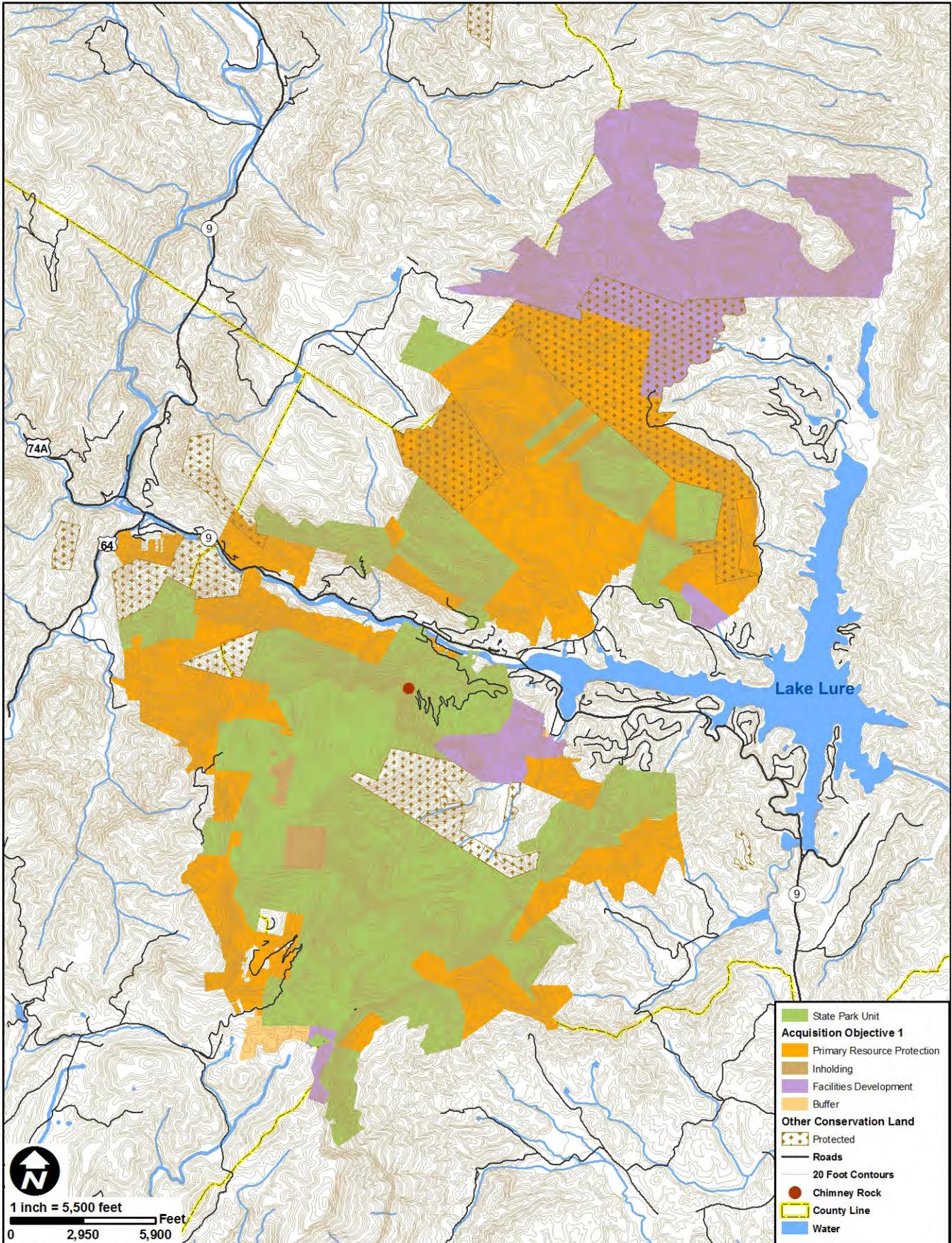
Land to improve boundary management and allow for facilities to be away from incompatible land uses.

INHOLDINGS

Inholding tracts have existing state park land on multiple sides and/or have access through state park property.

Chimney Rock State Park will continue to be enlarged to support the three primary objectives of the park development program: conservation management, education and stewardship, and access and recreation. The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation will eventually complete acquisition of all priority lands that support the state park mission and operations as the partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, and Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina continues.

FIGURE 10.10 LAND ACQUISITION OBJECTIVES MAP



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A PUBLIC COMMENTS

OVERVIEW

This appendix features public comments collected during the planning process. There were two different opportunities for public input. More than 150 people attended a public workshop in Lake Lure, North Carolina, on May 26, 2010. During the workshop, participants were invited to talk with project consultants and State Park representatives, view project display boards that provided background information, and comment directly on several alternatives for the future of the park. Several overview presentations were also conducted throughout the course of the day-long workshop.

Approximately 586 people provided their input through public comment forms following the first input session. These were provided in hardcopy format and were also distributed online, through the project web site, www.greenways.com/chimneyrock. The site featured a download page where project information was available for public consumption: www.greenways.com/chimneyrock_download.html. Online analytical software indicates that the project download page has had more than 1,200 visits from more than 600 unique visitors.

The second opportunity for public input was held subsequent to the release of the draft master plan in November 2010. For a period of two weeks, the draft plan was made available through the project web site



*The May 2010
Public Workshop*





*The May 2010
Public Workshop*



for public viewing. The site provided access to each chapter of the plan and a link to the public comment form where participants could submit comments.

At the close of the public input period on December 13, 2010, there were a total of 217 online comments and 426 emails collected in response to the draft plan.

The following pages contain verbatim comments from the workshop and workshop maps, followed by charts showing the responses from both the online comment forms.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

1. Keep the park fee-based to help support it
2. If the north side of Rumbling Bald cliffs and the Ghost Town cliffs were open, and there was good overnight camping, there would be climbers from all over the country camping, all year round. Those two cliffs each offer a different type of rock and are two of the finest areas in the southeast. There are already 100+ routes at each area.
3. Open all trails at Park ASAP. Word is already getting out that the park is no longer worth visiting, much less paying \$14.00 to go on only one trail.
4. Put someone from Chimney Rock on the advisory board for Chimney Rock State Park, based in Chimney Rock. Whoever put the board together has clearly missed the importance of having a resident/business owner from the Village on it.
5. Recommend put all attached comments on Lake Lure website for those unable to attend today



- (as a 'blog) with the capability to respond via email, via mail-in (print out an online form) or other communication vehicle
6. Protection of wildlife is paramount and critical to their contribution to the ecology and environment. Thorough plans on how to manage wildlife preservation and habitat will take lots of money and labor (park rangers?) waste management of park visitors plays an important part of this effort.
 7. Climber and climbing access can be seen as a low investment/low impact with a high turn-around in terms of visitation and dollars coming into the town. All climbers need is parking and a faint hard to follow trail in addition to access. This area is already a major resource but largely untapped. If climbing was open on the north face of Rumbling Bald "Ghost Town" cliffs across from Chimney Rock proper, and all of the state park, it would elevate Lake Lure to a national climbing destination. If you look at the Red River Gorge in Kentucky, climbing access has had a major economic impact to the area - visit 'Miguels' any day of the year and you will be sold. Thank you.
 8. No exit road in Lake Lure from the park. Leave it in Chimney Rock.
 9. Please add mountain biking trails for all to use. SORBA (Southern Off Road Biking Association) will help!
 10. Alternative 2 and 3 best support opportunities for human powered recreation. CRSP has one of the greatest densities of mountain recreation opportunities in the state park system if not the state as a whole (considering NPS and USES lands). Recreational rock climbing opportunities at Rumbling Bald have been bolstered by recent purchase of private lands that will be transferred to the park in the future. There is further potential for this model to forward park development, granted human powered recreation gains precedence as low impact acceptable use. Thanks.
 11. There is no need for a visitor center inside the existing park. Nor on top of the orchard. Totally not needed. The money that would be used to build roads and the infrastructure can be used to open up the Skyline and Cliff trails. That's what makes Chimney Rock State Park one of America's top scenic attractions - the trail system.
 12. The suggestion for a visitor center across new bridge on street sounds good. That would give all visitors a visible place to get correct, informative information about what the park offers. Alas, to open the Bottomless Pools would give the public access to beautiful, scenic areas without a lot of hiking. The seniors would like this. The old bridge could be covered and landscaped around it. Making a beautiful, working, bike trail.
 13. World's Edge should be limited to foot traffic - no four wheelers or motorcycles. It should be possible to get permits to hike and explore areas of limited and guided public access.
 14. Addition of the Weed Patch Mountain tract would enhance park access, areas for mountain biking, and primitive camping. The tract is currently owned by Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy.
 15. Open the two upper trails ASAP. They are iconic and striking. Consider restrictions on young children. Consider connecting to Six Summits Trail and CRSP trails to Upper Hickory Nut Gorge trails currently in planning stage.
 16. Greater things since the dam went up. Word of caution is...please be aware of the fragile parts of World's Edge tract. Lots of water and lots of special plants, trees, wildlife. Area should be limited to foot traffic and daily access only.
 17. Surprised to NOT see Weed Patch Mountain as part of overall plan.
 18. Due to terrain, accessibility and locations of park access areas, the environmental/visitor center should be located outside the park as shown in Alternative #1.
 19. We NEED horse riding access!!
 20. We do not need trail biking* anywhere in the currently existing study area. Maybe in the



- Weed Patch Mountain area, should that become available. Remember that noise is also an environmental impact. *Assuming that you mean motorized mountain bikes. Pedal trail bikes would be less objectionable but still not desirable.
21. The rock climbing is some of the best in the state and should be allowed. Climbers are a viable user group and have shown their dedication by purchasing property. We are willing to hike to the outcrops. All we need is a place to park.
 22. It would be nice to have a place to camp when I visit the area. My wife and children enjoy camping and this would be a great place to come visit for the weekend instead of for the day.
 23. Climbers would provide an economic impact in the off season. The best time to climb is in the winter.
 24. Please consider commuter bike trails/ways that can be used as an alternative to vehicle transportation from one side of the park to the other. For example, a bike path along the ingress/egress routes (paved/gravel). This could be an attraction for families. It would also reduce vehicle congestion through town.
 25. The entire area should be off-limits for motor bikes!!
 26. Reduce pollution at the top by using buses or tram from entrance.
 27. Open trails to Hickory Nut Falls! All trails -please!
 28. The plan needs to incorporate the Lake Lure summits trail, connecting the heights and ridgelines above Lake Lure that is in planning stage
 29. Greenways and hiker-biker trails as well as equestrian trails should be utilized to connect entrances in all four counties and give more access to visitors....involve local county commissioners to get improved satellite access points on outlying trails. Occasional shelters should be available similar to those on the Blue Ridge. Parkway trails, near scenic vistas....volunteers from said counties could be organized to help maintain said greenways similar to Dupont State Forest...trail to internal falls, pool creek falls, wolf creek falls
 30. Please contact Philip Byers with LLCA-CFA for tie to new school, special education programs, etc.
 31. Please contact Chris Braund, Lake Lure Town Manager about proposed summit trail system - very important to town and school.
 32. No RV's, tent camping only, no motorcycles, ATV's, etc. Please enforce NO loud noise in or near park.
 33. All the development is fine, do it, but DO NOT sacrifice the uniquely special things that has already made Chimney Rock special for decades like Skyline Trail, Cliff Trail, and Needles Eye! Reopening these trails is possible, they are already there, and should forever be a part of the Chimney Rock system. We love them and want them back!
 34. I would like the exit to remain where it is. This brings visitors revenue to Chimney Rock Village which survives on Chimney Rock visitors, tourism, and local business.

MAPPING COMMENTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

During the public workshop, participants were invited to write their comments directly on the maps for the three alternatives. Below are the comments that were provided, listed by alternative and by section of the park.

ALTERNATIVE 1: CONSERVATION-FOCUSED PARK

ALTERNATIVE 1 GENERAL COMMENTS

1. Although I would benefit financially from more people traffic in the area, I would prefer instead Alternative 1 with minimal further impact to the environment, especially including any further noise pollution and impact to wildlife!
2. We think the entry and exit roads should remain because they work great already. This creates less disturbance and an alternative to extra roads and parking lots in the park.



3. I like this alternative best, however, we do need MORE low and high impact activities. The perfect solution would be a blend of all three, leaving the entrance/exit road where it is. Chimney Rock Village depends on the visibility and tourism.
4. The majority of NC people would have opposed the purchase of Chimney Rock with tax funds if they knew the best trail would be closed.

ALTERNATIVE 1 MAP COMMENTS - OPEN ENDED

HNG has been lacking access to good recreational opportunities for years. When the state park was announced, it was hoped that recreational opportunities would be provided within the park. The landscape of the gorge, however, with its nationally significant lands encompassing the majority of the gorge, make providing recreation very difficult, unsafe, and not smart from a conservation standpoint. A much more logical scenario would be to limit the access to all the nationally significant lands, and instead expand the study area to include lands to the north and possibly west, which are less valuable biologically, but infinitely more usable recreationally. Couple that with the fact that a major access off of Buffalo Creek would not require expensive road building, would spread traffic out a third direction, and is only 20 minutes from I-40. This would create outstanding hiking and mountain biking opportunities on more usable land. The view from Grey Rock would provide astounding views of the gorge without disturbing homeowners as the view from Eagle Rock does. The existing study area should be expanded greatly to allow for these possibilities. In addition, with the historic use of many areas of the gorge, if good recreational opportunities are not provided, the truly biologically important areas will continue to be abused. Providing accessible areas to hike and bike would result in the protection of the areas that are critical biologically.

The addition of Weed Patch Mountain tract (1200-1300 acres) would be a great addition. The perfect venue for hiking, mountain biking, primitive camping. In the hands of CMLC currently.

Connection of CRSP trails with Six Summits Trail and the planned upper Hickory Nut Gorge and Bearwallow trails would be very smart indeed.

Connect to regional trails - Six Summit Trail (Rumbling Bald Area) and Hickory Nut Gorge system

ALTERNATIVE 1 MAP COMMENTS - NORTH RUMBLING BALD, KING TRACT

1. the proposed summit trail is very important for hiking and biking
2. Where is Weed Patch Mountain?
3. Town of Lake Lure owns property east of King Tract. Should look into possibility for a day use area, connection
4. the Rumbling Bald Resort is aka Fairfield and is a gated community. But trails connecting to here would be nice.
5. There should be a trail that spurs from the Rumbling Bald ridge and connects to the Town-owned property east of King Tract.
6. There might be an existing trail that connects Shumont Mountain to Boys Camp Road.
7. Expand climbing area north of Rumbling Bald! 20 year history of use!
8. 20 years of rock climbing at north Rumbling Bald
9. Open climbing access at north Rumbling Bald



ALTERNATIVE 1 MAP COMMENTS - SOUTH RUMBLING BALD

10. Long history of rock climbing here
11. Expand existing Rumbling Bald climbing day use area
12. Provide access to Rumbling Bald at Blue Heron Point

ALTERNATIVE MAP COMMENTS - BOYS CAMP ROAD, BOTTOMLESS POOLS NEAR PROPOSED VISITOR CENTER

13. Where the existing bridge crosses Lake Lure, make a covered bridge for bike/ped. New bridge being installed can be used for vehicular access.
14. Visitor center would be good at the proposed location. Easily accessible for all - keep moving for path on things to do.
15. Great site for visitor center.
16. Visitor center should be located here due to terrain and environmental concerns and allow land for park use IN THE PARK!
17. This is the best location for the visitor center.
18. I agree that the visitor center here would be a good location, but the site drains very poorly and site would cost money when there is already owned land to build upon. Let's use what we have already.
19. I agree! Let's open Bottomless Pools! (2 others agree)

ALTERNATIVE MAP COMMENTS - WORLD'S EDGE

20. People are hand gliding and doing other unauthorized recreational activities off World's Edge.
21. Double check the status if the roads south of World's Edge. Some of these roads are unpaved and the maps are showing them paved. Also, many stretched of these roads have not been used or improved in 40 years.

ALTERNATIVE MAP COMMENTS - CHIMNEY ROCK PROPER & ROUND TOP MOUNTAIN

22. Rock climbing and hiking at Ghost Rock
23. I miss the Skyline and Cliff trails!
24. Reopening the Skyline/Cliff trail is crucial to Chimney Rock State Park! (3 additional "I agree" comments)
25. Please open up both trails
26. Could rework the Skyline Trail with access to some features, but Cliff Trail is a one-of-a-kind experience. Must do!
27. [Arrow pointing to the proposed trail crossing Hickory Nut Falls] This trail should go closer to the top of the falls.
28. [Arrow pointing to area between Rocky Broad River and Chimney Rock entry road] No development here. Preserve homes.

ALTERNATIVE 2: LOW IMPACT PARK

ALTERNATIVE 2 GENERAL COMMENTS

1. I favor this alternative. Foot trails, backcountry camping, especially at Orchards, more trails to the SE of the Rock might be good.
2. Mountain bike trails are less impact than any other. Create business opportunities for MTB service/rental. 10 miles of MTB trail is small. More interest volunteer work if trail system for MTB if larger. Because of access issues, one-way, well signed MTB trails would be safer and



used more frequently.

3. Proposed exit road needs to account for existing local visitors (it would remove them away from downtown Chimney Rock). Visitors currently come back downtown and shop after visiting the park. An exit road would be very expensive. If rock climbing is expanded, take into account emergency services and management.
4. Fix the road and leave it alone (up to the Rock). Please open both closed trails.
5. If rock climbing access is expanded - Lake Lure will become a major climbing destination in the SE, boosting visitation. Climbers do not need much in terms of development - only access and legal parking - services/management are in minimal need.
6. Proposed new exit road is BAD for businesses in Chimney Rock

ALTERNATIVE 2 MAP COMMENTS - OPEN-ENDED

Reopen trail to top of falls!

No four wheeling! [two other "I agree!"]

Would LOVE mountain bike trails!

Weed Patch Mountain has more valuable area for hiking and mountain biking, ~1600 acres not in the proposed area

Park should partner with local equestrian groups for horse back activities

Equestrian Trails! [additional "Ditto!"]

Historic interpretation for 'Frontier Community' that lived on top of Chimney Rock Mountain (ask T.C. Huntly, local resident)

Market the Park for economic development [comment: Ditto!]

Add management as you add camping and hiking facilities

Great views! [at Stony Mountain]

Park entry fee deters visitors! [and] No Way!

ALTERNATIVE 2 MAP COMMENTS - NORTH RUMBLING BALD, KING TRACT

1. [At extreme north end]: Trail needed here to link with LL Town Park, part of Weed Patch Mountain, CMLC Tract

2. [Pointing at Eagle Rock]: Fantastic to see mountain bike access!

3. [Near Eagle Rock]: Residents live here. There will be access and parking issues/conflict near proposed Shumont Mountain trailhead. Please move trail away from houses in this area.

4. [Pointing to area east of King Tract]: Stacked loop system with all difficulties

5. Need a minimum of 8-10 miles of MTB trails!

6. [Referring to north side of Rumbling Bald]: MTB one way shuttle trail downhill MTB access just like Paris Mtn., Bend OR, and others.

MAP COMMENTS - North Rumbling Bald, King Tract (cont'd)

7. [Following comments refer to eastern ridge of Rumbling Bald]: Best climbing along here/Long history of rock climbing here/Climbing are with long history!/Allow MTB access!

ALTERNATIVE 2 MAP COMMENTS - SOUTH RUMBLING BALD

8. [Referring to existing Day Use Area]: Long history of climbing here/Expand!/Rock climbing here

9. [Referring to proposed Rumbling Bald Day Use Area]: Great to have mountain bike parking here

ALTERNATIVE 2 MAP COMMENTS - SHUMONT AND ROUND TOP MOUNTAIN

10. [Referring to Shumont Mountain Day Use Area]: If you open this as an access make it secure secure and manage use for safety, etc....and noise, trash, cleanup, etc. gate at night to prevent loitering and parking



11. [Referring to existing roadway leading up to Shumont Day Use Area]: This road is in unsafe condition
12. [South side of Round Top Mountain]: Open climbing access/Best climbing here!/Climbing area with a long history!/Trail to connect north and south portions of park/Connect with hiking trails?

ALTERNATIVE 2 MAP COMMENTS - CENTRAL CHIMNEY ROCK SP

13. Free foot access from Chimney Rock?
14. [Referring to proposed egress road]: Could be confusing for park users/This road needed/Alternative route (from existing offices east of Meadows)/This roadway directs visitors away from the majority of local business. This is something that visitors and tourists look for on vacation.
15. [Referring to hiking trail from Meadows]: Would love a hiking trail connection into Lake Lure town center, lake
16. [Referring to existing roadway ---]: This road would need major costly improvement to make usable
17. [Near proposed visitor center at the Meadows]: I like the concept of free access to the hiking trails and a hub of information in the Meadows.
18. [Near proposed visitor center at the Meadows]: Need to think through other current uses of Meadows for shoulder season events, etc.
19. Reopen Cliff trail, very historic and dramatic and low impact!
20. Reopen Skyline Trail! /[Additional (3)] "Yes!"
21. As a local business owner, this has been a top request/desire. Especially Cliff Trail as it is most photogenic.
22. [North side of Chimney Rock]: Last of the Mohicans here! Open these trails!
23. [North side of Chimney Rock]: Open climbing access!
24. Great, trails on top of Chimney Rock!

ALTERNATIVE 2 MAP COMMENTS - BOTTOMLESS POOLS

25. Make this area accessible ASAP!!
26. This would make great drive-in camping, campers could easily access the beach at Lake Lure and Restaurants
27. Create a 3-5 mile loop hiking trail NEAR TOWN to attract day hikers into the downtown Lake Lure commercial area
28. [Referring to east trails at Bottomless Pools]: Convert with Summits Trail around Lake Lure and to new school site
29. Definitely need primitive camping

ALTERNATIVE 2 MAP COMMENTS - WORLD'S EDGE

30. Sugarloaf roadbed GREAT MTB access - shallow grade, virtually no erosion issues, great MTB loops
31. Link access to Polk County and Green River
32. [West side of World's Edge]: Develop tent and trailer camping in this area
33. Provide access for MTB
34. Partying, littering, and dumping problems reported at World's Edge

ALTERNATIVE 3: INTENSIVE RECREATION PARK

ALTERNATIVE 3 GENERAL COMMENTS

1. Open all of Chimney Rock area to rock climbing, open and establish access to "ghost town" area and north face of Rumbling Bald - it would boost Lake Lure to a MAJOR national climbing



destination.

2. Please open both upper trails in existing park. Buy Bottomless Pools and Boulders track.
3. 2 existing trails should be reopened. No RV's, ATV's, motorcycles...there is already too much noise pollution! Open trails soon!
4. Proposed road to orchard is a bad idea - would create a gash through the park
5. Proposed road to orchards is poor utilization of resources (cost)
6. Entrance fee is too high for some visitors; could we allow people to enter PART of the park for free (visitor center, information center)?
7. Add camping (regulated of course), maybe a cable car ride to the top

ALTERNATIVE 3 MAP COMMENTS - OPEN-ENDED

Incorporate mass transit
 Accommodate traffic
 More mountain biking. SORBA can help with maintenance.
 Inspiration Point trail? Top of Falls
 Where is RV camping?
 Please check ROW area near World's Edge for McGraw family
 Visitor center in Lake Lure
 Open up old closed trails to top
 Equestrian access??
 Girl Scout camp for sale
 Regional airport
 8-mile town trail tie-in will tie in with everything
 Parking deck in Lake Lure, walk to park off Boys Camp Rd.
 Bug Bottomless Pools and open
 Windmills for electricity
 Conference center/hotel like Stone Mountain State Park GA
 Add low impact shelters for spot thunderstorms with break-out first aid kits
 Coordinate with county commissioners to provide access points into the park (partner for funding at trailheads)
 Access for mountain bikers at World's Edge would be great
 [Near Bottomless Pools]: Gateway trailhead parking/visitor center (small) align with Town planning
 Limited Access Areas - provide guided tours with botanist or biologist with limited access for naturalists and those interested in native species and flora and fauna

ALTERNATIVE 3 MAP COMMENTS - RUMBLING BALD

8. Provide access to Lake Lure Summits Trail Here [north of King Tract]
 9. Rumbling Bald Resort okay and welcomes public access point
 10. Excellent ridge top hiking trail
- MAP COMMENTS - Rumbling Bald (cont'd)
11. Existing north side climbing areas 20 year history
 12. Fantastic climbing here, 100+ routes
 13. Great climbing need access
 14. More climbing than shown! Long history! Regionally significant area!
 15. Don't close ridge trail!
 16. Trails should not go right by houses - align away from houses [near Eagle Rock]
 17. Concern for safety on Shumont Rd. - increased tourism could cause problems; if there is an accident for example



ALTERNATIVE 3 MAP COMMENTS - ROUND TOP MOUNTAIN AND BOYS CAMP RD.

18. [At south side of Round Top Mountain]: Environmental issues with existing developer - sink holes/drainage ponds - road is deteriorating
19. Ghost Town climbing area - 20 year history!
20. Please open [area around Round Top Mountain]/keep open to climbing
21. Fantastic climbing here, 100+ routes
22. Consider connecting trail and backcountry camping
23. Trailhead access to RB trail good idea [RE: proposed RB day use area]
24. Buy this Old Silver City [SW Round Top Mtn]

ALTERNATIVE 3 MAP COMMENTS - CENTRAL CHIMNEY ROCK

25. Reopen Skyline and Cliff Trails!/Yes!/A Must!/Yes yes yes!/I agree 100% AND SOON!
26. Offer golf cart shuttle to bottom of falls
27. [Egress Road]: Alternative shown on map
28. Just buy Hickory Nut Falls Family Campground

ALTERNATIVE 3 MAP COMMENTS - THE ORCHARDS

29. Too hot for visitor area
30. Camping will increase the risk to this area!
31. No RV's!
32. Occasional shelter on greenway connection, Sugarloaf with Chimney Rock!
33. Do not allow camping at all!!
34. CRP needs a Grand Lodge similar to those at Yosemite/No, please don't!/No
35. Do both roads to the top!

ALTERNATIVE 3 MAP COMMENTS - PROPOSED ENTRY ROAD

36. Bad Idea!
37. Will destroy nationally significant land
38. Road is bad idea. PRIVATE PROPERTY.
39. Inappropriate. Very poor idea.
40. This is a costly and unattractive option. Not worth the expense.
41. Good for fire fighting but \$\$\$

ALTERNATIVE 3 MAP COMMENTS - SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN, POOL CREEK

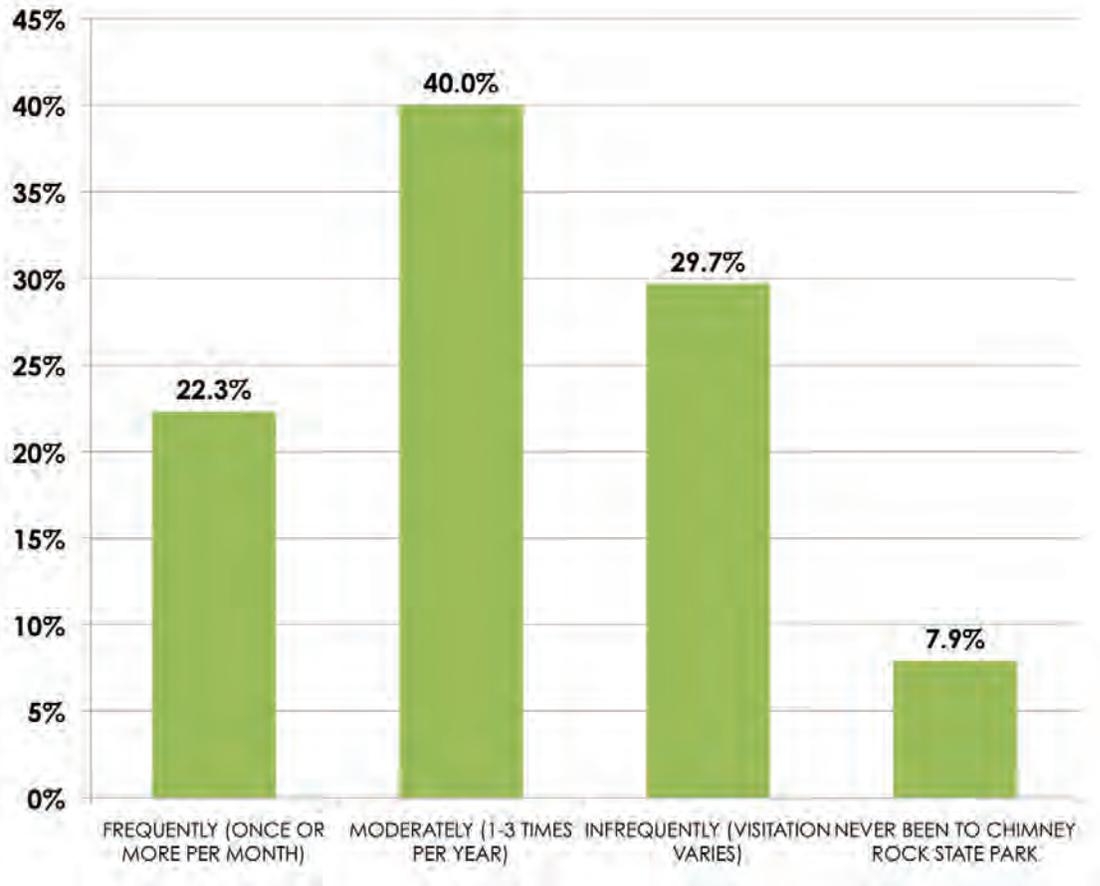
42. Internal falls path/trail to view inner falls
43. Need evacuation at all camping areas!
44. Good beginner group rock climbing area. Spread climbers out = reduced impact!
45. Look into existing Jeep trail for access
46. Possible access for Henderson County site at Sugarloaf Mtn.
47. Cloven Cliffs existing rock climbing area (20 year history)
48. Possible equestrian staging area of county road 1706



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM #1 RESULTS

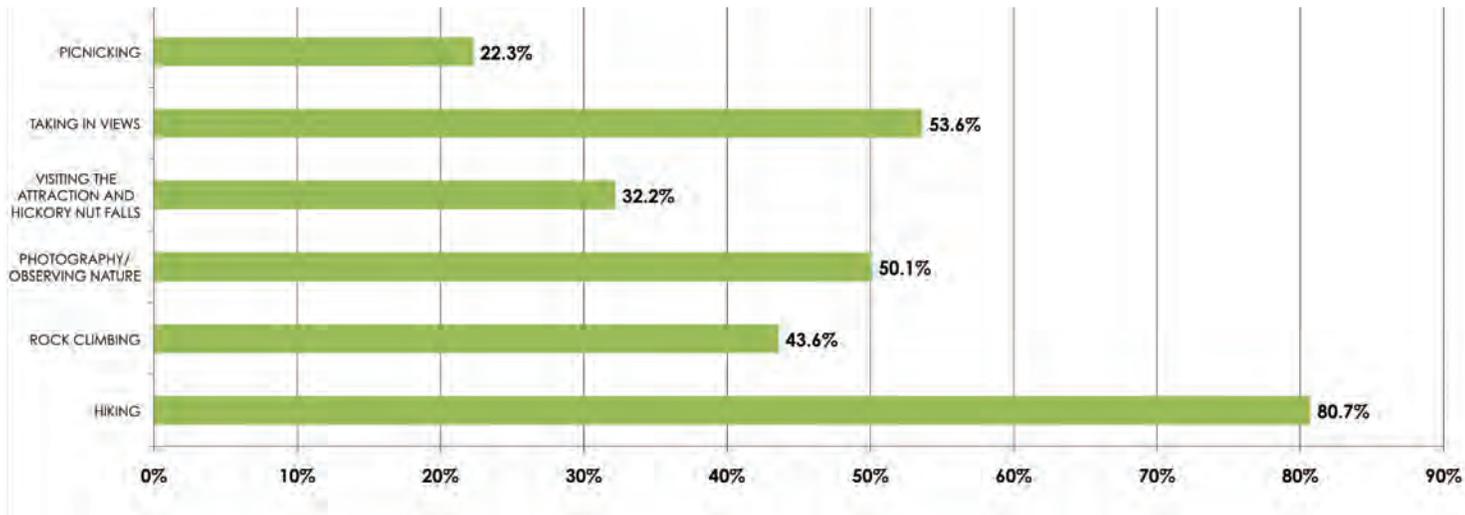
The first Chimney Rock State Park public comment form was designed to solicit input on a series of questions relevant to park visitation, programming, and planning. The responses to each question are tallied in the following charts. A total of 586 responses were recorded.

QUESTION 1: HOW OFTEN DO YOU CURRENTLY VISIT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK?

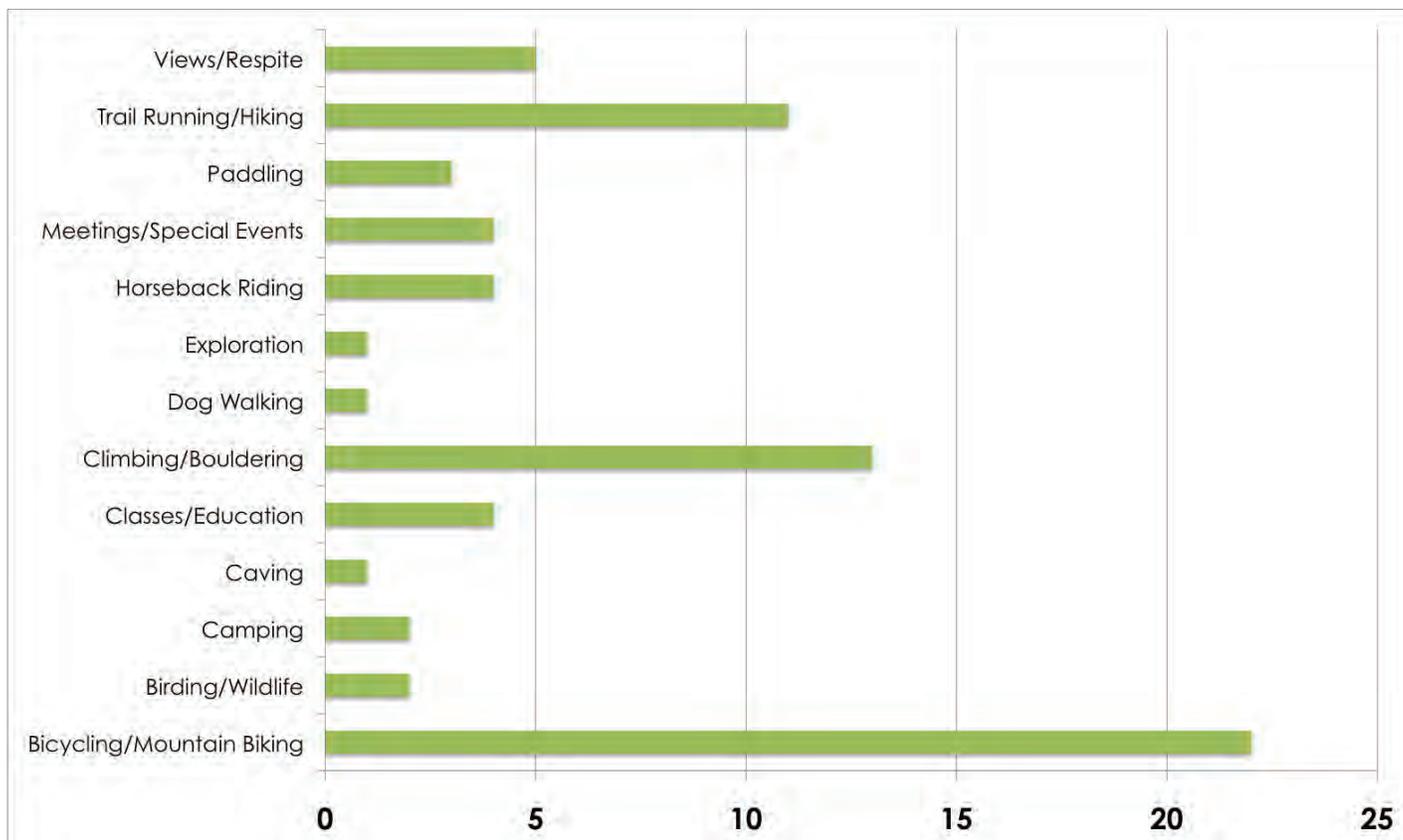




QUESTION 2: WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN WHEN YOU VISIT THE PARK?



QUESTION 2 - SPECIFIC RESPONSES* TO "OTHER":





QUESTION 3: WHAT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN MORE FREQUENTLY AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK?

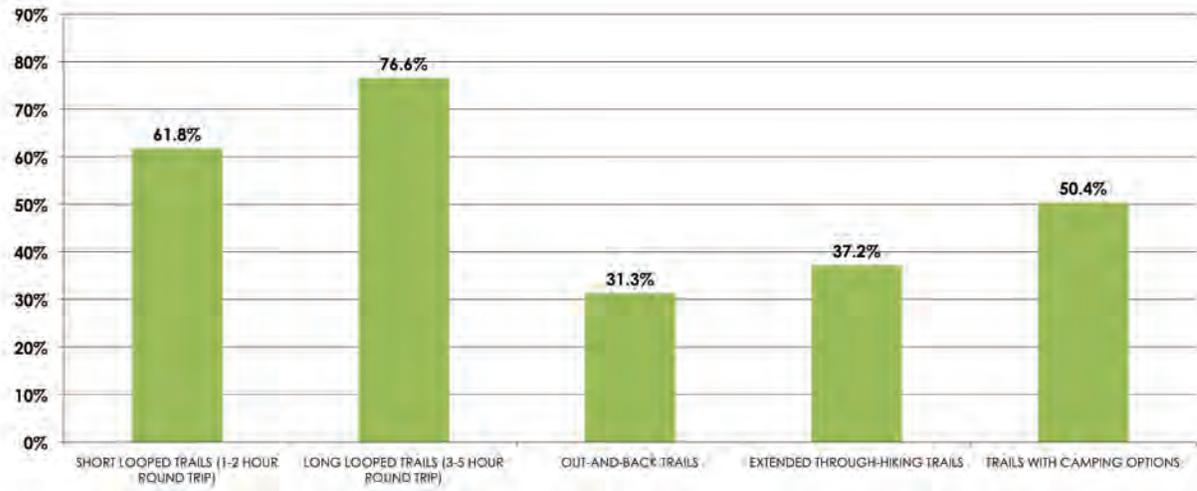


QUESTION 3 - SPECIFIC RESPONSES* TO "OTHER":

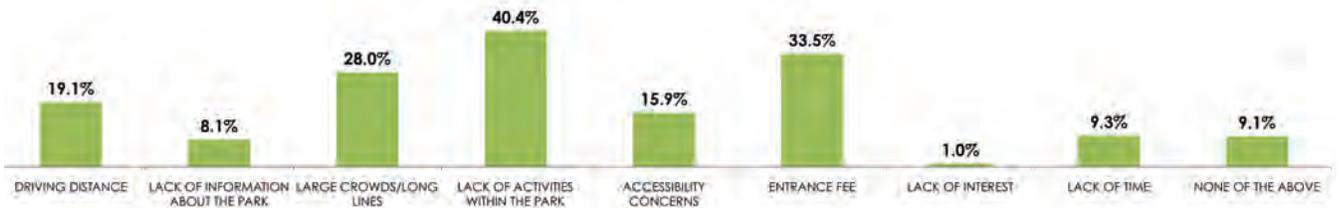




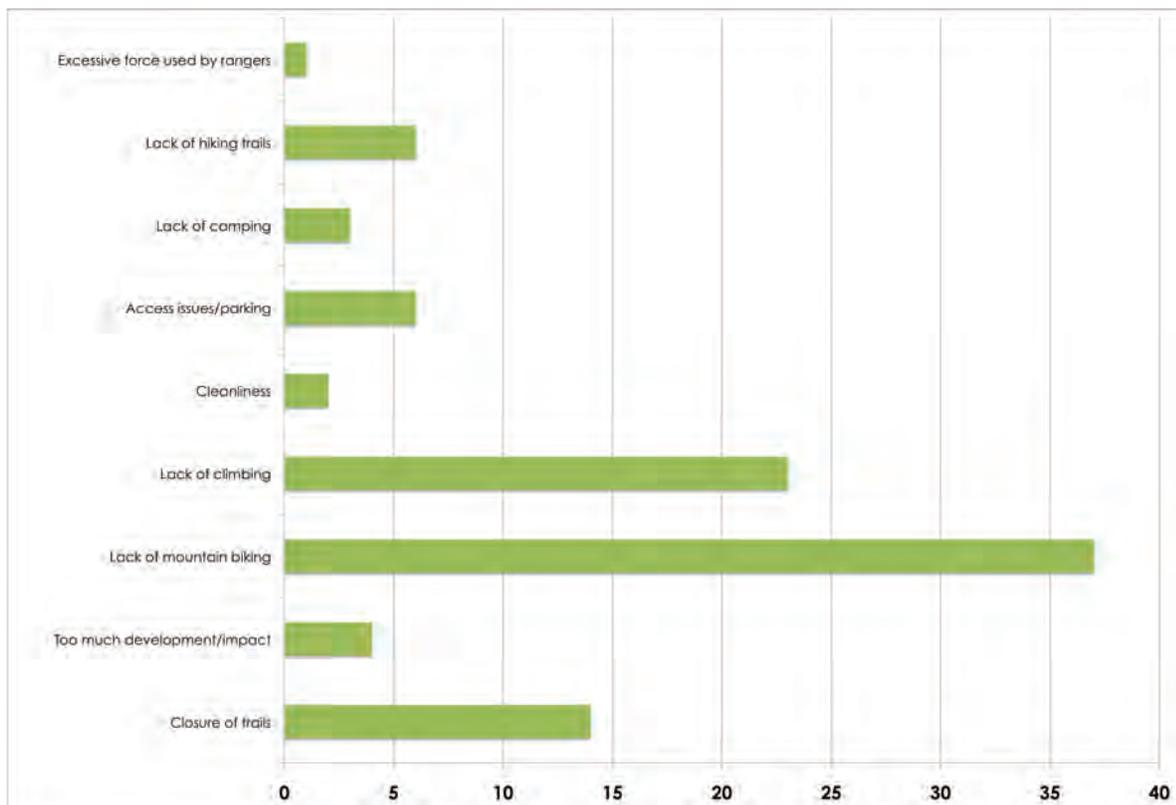
QUESTION 4: IF YOU INCLUDED “HIKING TRAILS” IN YOUR RESPONSE TO QUESTION 3, PLEASE SPECIFY THE TYPES OF TRAILS YOU PREFER.



QUESTION 5: WHAT, (IF ANY) ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTORS THAT MIGHT PREVENT YOU FROM VISITING CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK?

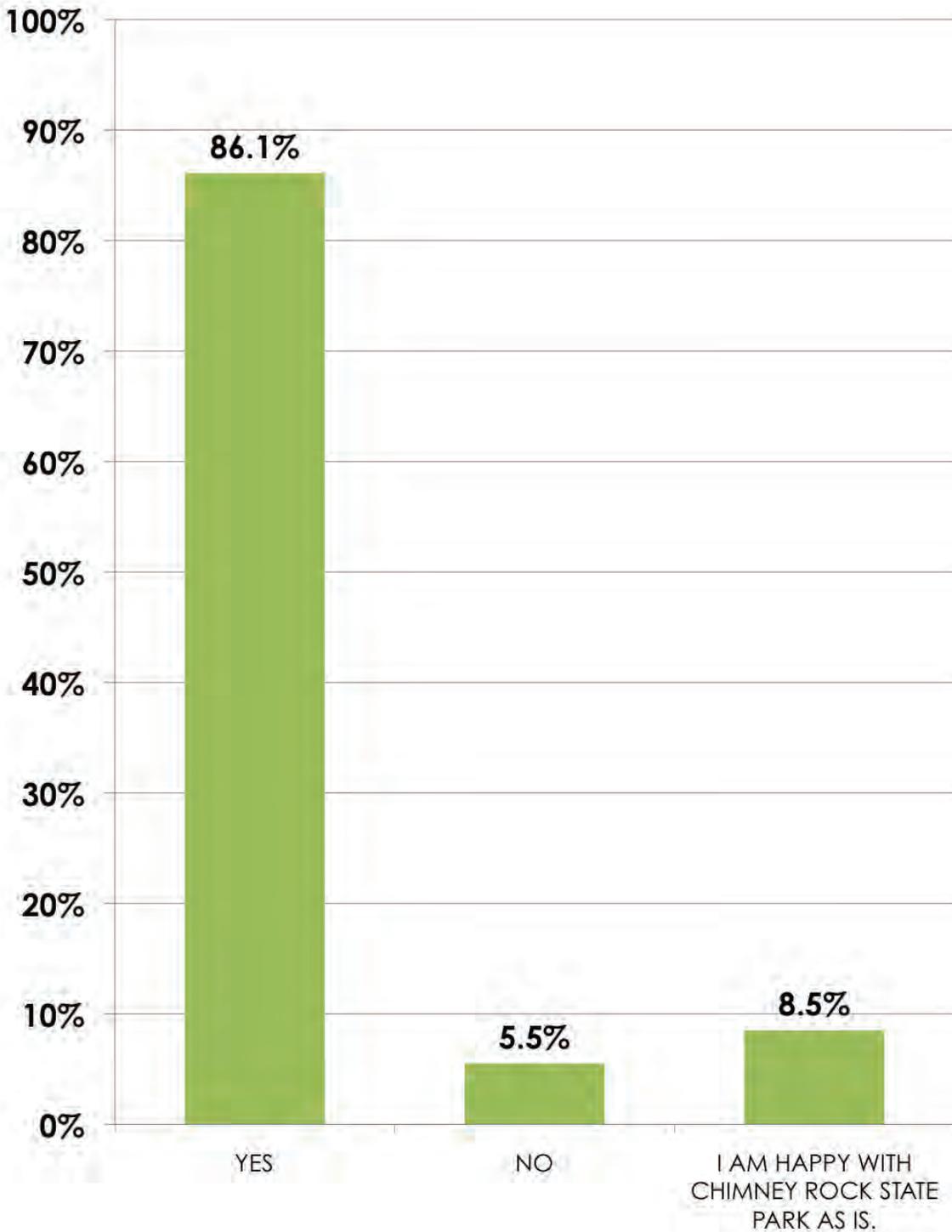


QUESTION 5 - SPECIFIC RESPONSES* TO “OTHER”:



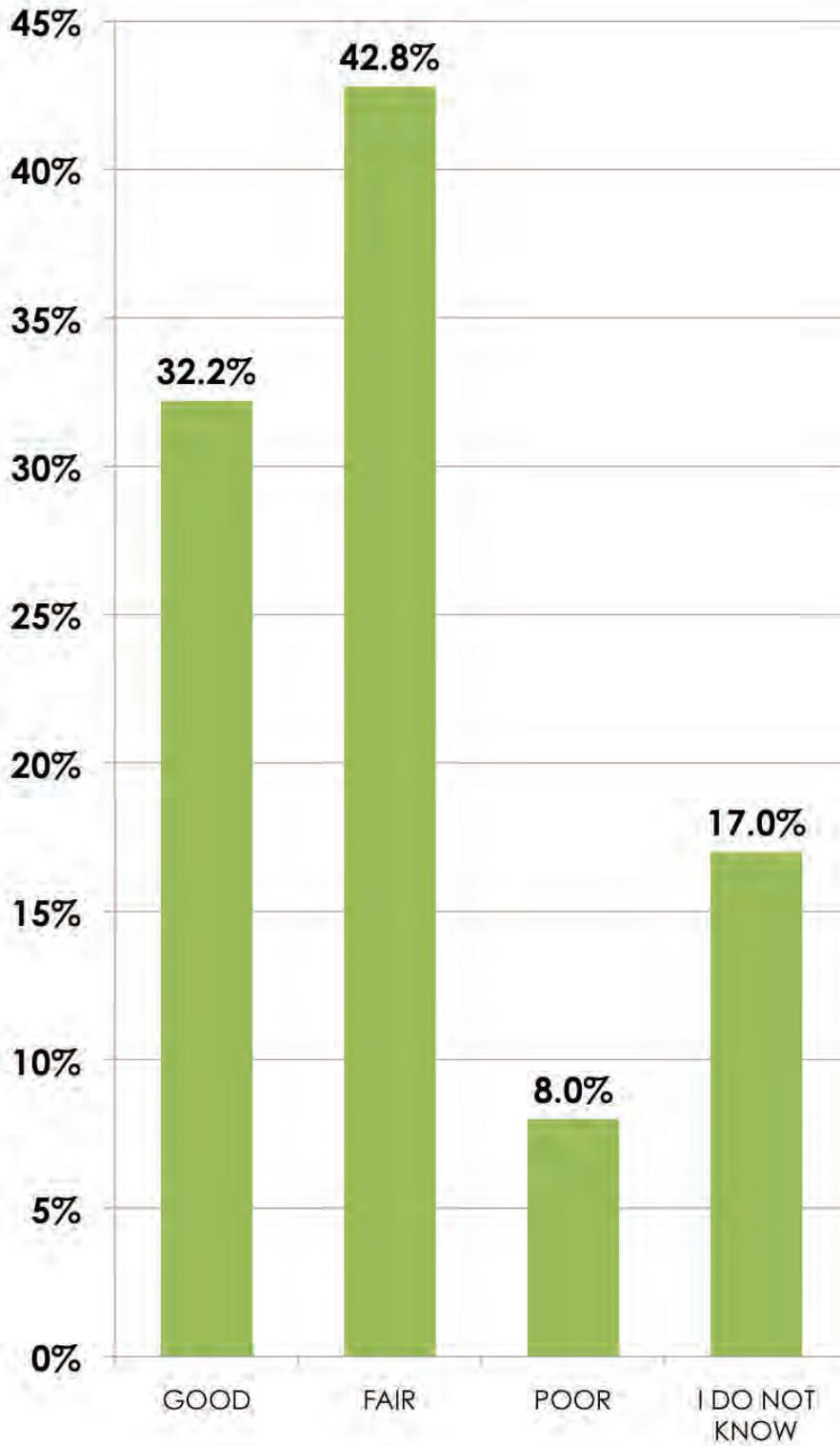


QUESTION 6: WOULD YOU VISIT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK MORE OFTEN IF THERE WERE MORE DAY USE AREAS, TRAIL FACILITIES, AND ACCESSIBLE TRAILHEADS?



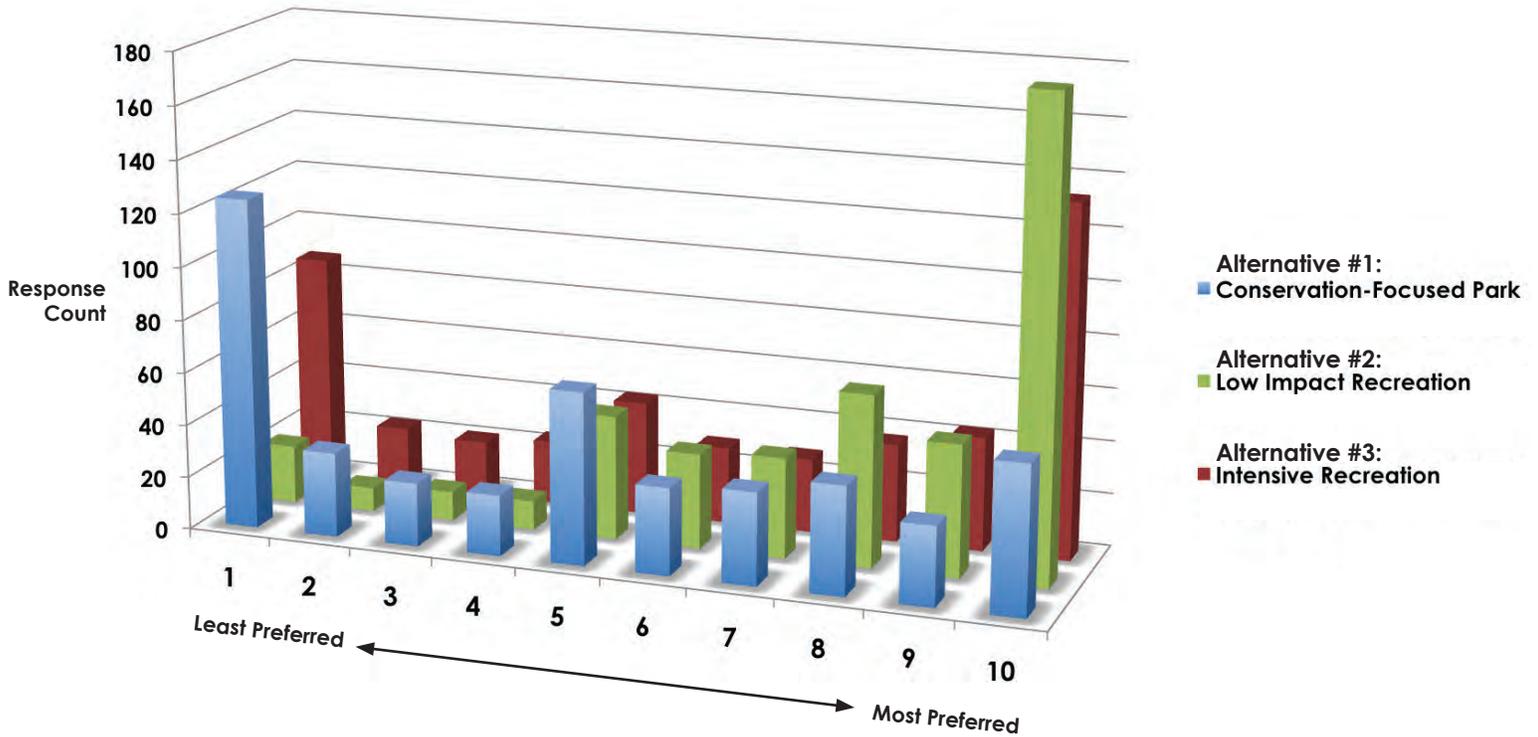


QUESTION 7: HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE CURRENT CONDITIONS OF CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK?

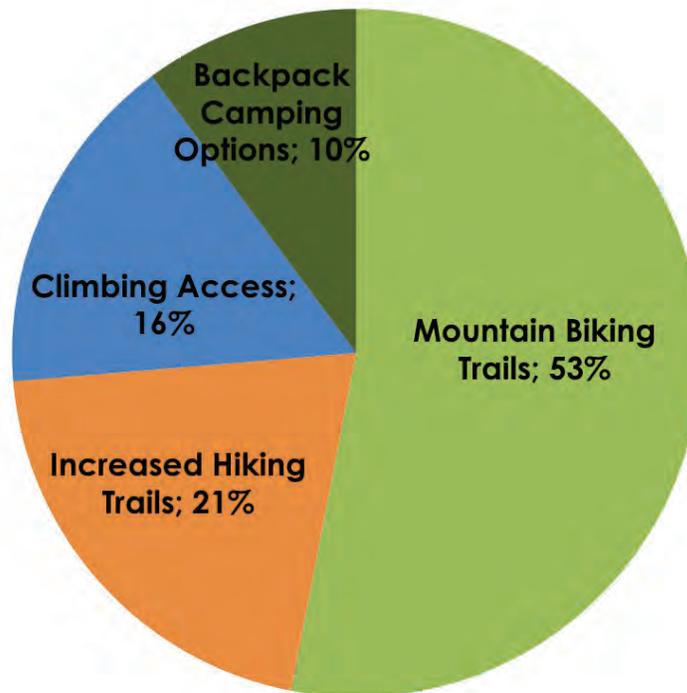




QUESTION 8: PLEASE RATE THE ALTERNATIVES [OUTLINED IN CHAPTER 8], FROM ONE TO TEN, TEN BEING YOUR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.



QUESTION 9 (OPEN-ENDED): FOR YOUR MOST PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE, WHAT ELEMENTS DO YOU LIKE BEST? (graph shows top results, individual responses are listed on the following pages)





QUESTION 9 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

1	More access to more people.
2	"Low impact" model fits this area a lot better than a more intensive and invasive park development.
3	#3 - It allows access to World's Edge and more day use area in the Rumbling Bald area
4	1. rock climbing 2. Mountain biking 3. hiking
5	10 miles of mountain bike trails
6	10 miles of mtn bike trail
7	A combination of conservation and access for recreation.
8	A good mix of recreation and conservation.
9	A Mountain bike section!
10	A nice mix of access to enjoy the natural beauty w/out having the large influx of RV's and cars (like the main roads of the Smokies). Nice use of use areas and trails to traverse the park. With the natural rock available, it could have a nice comparison with Linville.
11	Access for mountain biking
12	Access Opportunity...
13	access to activities like mountain biking, camping, and hiking.
14	Access to climbing and hiking resources that are maintained through a combined effort of park staff and non-profit interest groups
15	Access to mountain biking.
16	Access to new terrain within the park
17	Access to rock climbing
18	Access to rock climbing
19	Access to Rumbling Bald, and not building a visitor center there.
20	Access to the area and the attractions without the excessive overhead of expensive facilities.
21	Access to the existing climbing & improved access to the areas that have been climbed but not fully utilized. I believe creating access to all of the climbing will reduce impact by spreading out the climbing community.
22	access to the park from different ends and the horse trails
23	Access to the varied geological formations and Falls, ability to add new activities such as BPing/camping, biking - but they need to be in new areas - not in the existing park. It would ruin it.
24	accessibility, ability to visit with short time horizon
25	achieves a balance of recreation and conservation.
26	Activities for all
27	Activities offered, particularly mountain biking and primitive camping while maintaining natural integrity of the park.
28	Added trails and additional educational options.
29	Adding biking trail
30	Addition of mountain bike trails.
31	Additional 6 acre short trails connection to out of park trails
32	additional hiking trails and improved access to areas currently underutilized; more day use facilities, campgrounds, etc. to disperse use
33	After hearing from the consultant staff at the 5/26 event, I formed the impression that a more-intensive form of development has significant pluses. By creating a new visitor center, pressure could be taken on the area that has been the center of the private park -- and that area could still have entry well controlled so as to prevent undue wear & tear.
34	All the hiking options and trailheads
35	allows biking without too much development
36	an abundance of trails, but not the overuse of "Day Use" area and street access.
37	As a local resident(within 10 miles of the park) I would like to visit 2-3 times per week to walk, jog, hike or mountain bike.
38	Availability of primitive camping options that will allow access without too much hiking.
39	Balance between conservation and recreation
40	balance of use without visibility being prominent
41	Because mountain biking is compatible with the prescription for that model just like hiking and rock climbing are. Mountain biking is a low impact (and quiet) human powered recreation form that has similar impacts compared with hiking; it is not diametrically opposed to conservation values.
42	Being in the woods
43	Better access
44	Better access to great existing rock climbing routes. Camping areas.
45	BIKING
46	Biking options, conservation.
47	biking trails
48	Biking trails
49	Blend of more recreation (mountain biking in particular) while maintaining low impact development
50	Bottomless pools-I've never seen them. Another parking area at RB? You didn't make it clear.
51	camping, trail network
52	Camping and access to The Bottomless Pools
53	Camping and climbing access

QUESTION 9 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

54	Camping sites if primitive.
55	Car-camping options and the parking structure.
56	Climbing
57	climbing
58	climbing & hiking
59	Climbing access
60	compromise, leave no trace ethic is imperative
61	Conservation of nature
62	conserving the environment
63	Construction of mountain bike trails
64	Continued access to climbing at Rumbling Bald, hopefully gaining access to the routes on the North Side. Minimal destruction of the forest for parking etc...
65	day hikes between camping areas
66	Day use areas, increased parking. It balances conservation and recreation and makes use of existing day-use areas and creates some new ones.
67	dispersed parking with restrooms, more primitive camping options
68	Entrance at World's Edge
69	Environmental preservation, accommodation of varying hiking skills, multiple day use areas, multiple access points
70	Every proposed day use parking area in the plan is well needed. These parking areas will provide access to the extensive trail network that is already there and will be added to or changed by this plan. Also all the proposed camping/rv areas will be well recieved. Especially all of the proposed primitive camping areas.
71	expanded access to park areas, expanded access to camping opportunities, expanded access to future rock climbing activities
72	Expanded recreational activities of rock climbing and mountain biking without extensive development of the park.
73	Extensive recreation. I like ot have beautiful places to pitch a tent and lightly tread on trails (rather than carving my own trails..)
74	Extensive trail networks that access the cliffs of Rumbling Bald, both the regular south face, and the north face.
75	Extensive use encourages me to visit more and provides more options to spend the day. I like the mountain biking trail.
76	Facilities for moderate recreation.
77	Focus on conservation
78	Good balance of use and minimum change to land.
79	Greater access to recreation
80	have not yet been
81	Having educational destinations, places to reflect upon nature and the astonishing unique ecology of the Hickory Nut Gorge. Let's raise awareness about land stewardship and our collective responsibilities.
82	hiking
83	Hiking
84	Hiking and rock climbing access
85	hiking trails to prominent vistas in the park, protection of the biologically significant areas of the park -- ie prevention of climbing on pristine rocks in the park -- limiting the climbing to Rumbling Bald South only to prevent further devastaion of rock faces and sensitive plant life.
86	hiking trails, interpretive enviornmental education center,
87	hiking trails. visitor center in town. no new roads
88	hiking trails. primitive usage.
89	hiking trails/ restroom
90	hiking, camping, backpacking
91	I prefer the mtb options of the second two alternatives
92	I am a rock climber and boulderer that visits Rumbling Bald about once a week or so in the fall-spring months, so my main concern is access to existing climbing areas in the tract, along with opening up more climbing areas. This has become a world class climbing destination and could bring a ton of revenue into the immediate area if advertised as such. With that being said, in order to maximize the use and minimize the impact, more climbing areas need to be maintained and opened. Ghost Town along with the North side of Rumbling Bald are only a few of the already developed areas that should be a priority to disperse the concentration of climbers at the main cliff band and boulders at the Bald. I also like the idea of having plenty of camping so climbers wont have to leave the park for lodging. A designated "climbers campground" with a small convenience shop would produce a great amount of income for the park and prove that the Bald is NC's top winter climbing destination!!!
93	I appreciate the added development of hiking and mountain biking trails in the Low Impact Recreation plan. I also appreciate the lower level of development as opposed to the Intensive Recreation plan.
94	I appreciate the compromise between making existing day-use activities (such as rock climbing) more convenient and 'organized' while also reserving some areas of the park for more remote hiking and camping experiences and limited adverse impact to the environment. In particular, I like the addition of day-use facilities in the area of Rumbling Bald Mountain to facilitate rock climbing in the area.
95	I backpack and prefer less people, but realize even if the intensive alternate is considered, many will not walk the distance in to the camp sites.



QUESTION 9 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

96	I believe that conservation focused park is the smartest for maintaining the resource. I am a climber and I see no access to climbing in this plan. Why? This area is a great resource, and it should be shared with the people who can be utilize it's most prominent resource. This area would require fixed anchors in order to climb safely due to its lack of crack for artificial gear.
97	I cannot read the plan on-line. I like the idea of keeping the park natural, conservation-focused, with minimal impact to the land.
98	I could not see enough on my computer to vote on these, I will attend the meeting tonight to see. I love the prak in general and love what you have done so far. Thank you.
99	I do like the restoration of the Bottomless Pools area.
100	I don't want to see over visitation to the park, offering a more wilderness experience.
101	I dont have time to study the differences between these three alternatives, but I am in support of additional trails and ESPECIALLY improved access to climbing. Climbing is the most unique aspect of the park and this area is VERY important to the rock climbing community.
102	I feel that low impact recreation still allows motor vehicle based tourism to access the park, but does not overrun the upper areas such as the Orchards with more parking and access.
103	i like having the bottomless falls open and more hiking trails available.
104	i like intensive rec activities, mountain biking and such
105	I like that the orchards will not be intensively developed. That climbing access will remain. Also, i think it is important not to over develop the park so that it can be enjoyed and appreciated as a quiet retreat; a place to be with nature not hordes of people.
106	I like that the parking area at rumbling bald will be improved.
107	I like that the Rumbling Bald area has been given attention... I would also like to see that Round Top area become an attraction as well. Specifically, for Rock Climbers this area is known as Ghost Town. (If I understand the map correctly). I would like to see hiking and rock climbing access to these locations to reduce impact to Rumbling Bald. Blue Rock, is another area that would be an incredible asset for rock climbers as well. And by opening these areas up to rock climbers would cause such a sensation, that the Hickory Nut Gorge would be known as the Southeast's Yosemite Valley. The potential for this area is beyond the imagination, if low impact users were just allowed to enjoy themselves.
108	I like that there will be more trails than there are now and mostly that it looks like rock climbing will be available in more areas than are available now. Rock climbers are very conservation minded people who are good stewards of our rocks and land as proven by our organizations such as CCC and Access Fund who are actively conserving beautiful areas.
109	I like the additional area for mountain biking with a reasonable amount of hiking trails. I would like to see there be more access granted to climbers than just Rumbling Bald. Climbers can help build and maintain low impact trails to access the cliffs.
110	I like the balance that is struck between recreational use and conservation. This land is an incredible resource, one that needs to be protected and used wisely to ensure it continues to thrive for generations.
111	I like the education center, and a balanced amount of camping areas and hiking trails. I like the increased size of the Round Top Mountain Conservation MGMT Area in the Conservation-Focused alternative.
112	I like the expanded access to rock climbing areas and camping options.
113	I like the expansion of Rumbling Bald day usage area.
114	I like the fact that they included MTBing in 2 of the plans. I don't see why it wouldn't be in all of them. MTBing is a great recreation that allows greater access in a shorter amount of time and is also very low impact.
115	I like the higher amount of hiking alternatives, while still keeping it fairly natural.
116	I like the idea of a hub trail system for hiking, climbing, and primitive camping. Good call on permeable pavement!
117	I like the idea of a limited road, and no large trailer-camping area, or anything like that. I think a large parking area and decent access road would be best. I do think that certain low impact groups--such as backpackers, day hikers, rock climbers, and others should be given priority, since the vast majority of people who partake in these activities are conservation-minded already.
118	I like the idea of accessibility with certain areas carefully chosen and set aside for conservation.
119	I like the idea of low impact activities.
120	I like the increased accessibility mostly. The only problem I have with the current setup is the lack of parking. Also, I wouldn't mind some primitive camping (maybe a pit toilet, maybe running water, with a designated area or areas to throw a tent down). The camping would be great if it was back from the road where it would be quiet. Thanks for all your help guys! The park is great as is and could be incredible with such improvements!
121	I like the Mountain Biking Trail
122	I like the mountain biking trails.
123	I like the mountain biking trails. I also like that there is less impact and cost then the intensive plan.
124	I like the network of established trails. I think that they actually help conserve the area since it will hopefully prevent "off route" traffic. The chimney rock park trails that already exist are spectacular and I think additional well designed paths would make this an even better place to visit and ensure the town doesn't lose out during this transition from private to public management.
125	I like the open access and available parking in the intensive recreation version.
126	I like the opportunity for IMBA multi use low impact trails to be built so that I visit this beautiful area and ride my mtn. bike.
127	I like the Orchard hiking trail and the fact that this will have as little impact on existing trails as possible.
128	I like the plans for mountain biking trails. We take our family (parents 59 years old to our 4 year old) on camping trips that we can ride our bikes. This is a great low impact sport that the whole family can enjoy. Mt Bikes are also a low impact trail user and the mt bike community also gives back a lot of volunteer time to the trails we ride. I think if there were a large network of good riding trails the local community would benefit. We meet people all the time from other states that come to Dupont and Pisgah to ride on their vacations. This could help local business owners with shoulder seasons and bring more money into the local economy.

QUESTION 9 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

129	I Like whichever alternative opens up the most climbing.
130	I love some of the hiking trails you have already
131	I love the accessibility of the cliffs at Rumbling Bald.
132	I prefer increased access to rock climbing.
133	I prefer the Intensive Recreation and Use alternative because it gives climbers access to the rock faces and it would build mountain biking trails an hiking trails with primitive camping sites along the way. The longer the trails the better.
134	I think that the intensive recreation alternative makes best use of the resources of the Hickory Nut Gorge.
135	I think that the park should focus on what it has - Nature, wild trails, low development. I do think there should be tent camping, backpacking, and lots of rock climbing options.
136	I want there to be good climbing access. Climbers are often very aware of leave no trace, so it seems it would fit with the low impact recreation. I don't want to see RVs and such around. Some back country camping would be nice.
137	I would like to see access to more rock climbing. Chimney rock is a mini version of Yosemite Valley.
138	I would like to see as much access as possible to climbing areas. Climbers, in general, are good stewards and by spreading them out over the park's excellent resources, it would limit impact. In addition, Chimney Rock has the unique opportunity to provide the ONLY public mountainbiking from Dupont to Spartanburg. This is a significant shortcoming of the area and would be a significant draw to the area. It would also provide the opportunity to develop businesses in the area such as bike shops, housing and restaurants.
139	I would like to see mountain bike trails introduced to the park. Mountain biking is a low impact sport that a lot of local people enjoy and causes very little to no damage to trail systems (when properly built trails are present and maintained in a proper fashion.) Mountain biking is also becoming a huge tourist draw for western NC.
140	I would like to see mountain biking trails added.
141	I would like to see the beauty of these mountains more accessible without destroying the environment
142	I would love to see camping available at the park or near the Rumbling bald climbing area. and as much as I want to conserve the area, bathrooms/more parking would be really nice at the rumbling bald climbing area
143	I would love to see more access to other climbing cliffs in the park, not just Rumbling Bald. There's much potential more new routes there and it would make national news if climbing would be opened up on the "other side". Also, I think including much more mountain biking opportunities would really bring people in to the area. Mountain Bikers have more money than some other user groups and they would come from afar (TN, VA, GA & even FL) to ride the trails, eat in restaurants and stay in hotel rooms and campgrounds.
144	If an area is destroyed, it doesn't matter whether people involved in recreation or in development destroyed it. The most important goal should be to preserve the few areas remaining. Minimal impact recreation is the best second choice. Preserving flora and fauna and habitat should be the top priority.
145	improved accessibility but not overwhelming
146	improved facilities
147	Increase in usage but not so invasive of the natural resources.
148	Increased accessibility to Orchards and backside of Chimney
149	Increased focus on nature, education
150	Increased number of trails and camping options.
151	Increased opportunity to mtn bike and rock climb
152	increased trail options for more variety of park users
153	increased trails but not increased day use and RV camping the park should stay nature oriented
154	Interconnected trails and added day use areas
155	It does not take all day to do stuff. More accessibility.
156	It is cost-effective both to create and to maintain, honors the environmental protection intent of so many donors to park land acquisition, and utilizes a new visitors center intelligently (ie, a central location from which one can most easily then go to the part of the park which they wish to utilize).
157	It protects the environment in an age when development is and will be rampant. It does not compromise my family's safety since it does not use Proctor Road ("C" Ave.) which I live on; it is less expensive and requires less tax revenue to build and maintain.
158	It provides access to more of the rock in the gorge. Ideally, I would like to see access to all of the rock in the park.
159	Joining trails, use of existing areas, provides camping options
160	Keep the entrance/exit where it is, conservation is very important.
161	Keeping the Rumbling Bald Area clear for climbers. At areas like Pilot Mountain State Park some day users interfere with climbers and create potentially hazardous situations.
162	lack of impact on the forested area. Less foot traffic and less visiting population allows for a better and more natural environmental preserve
163	least amount of impact to natural mountain environment
164	legal climbing access for round top mountain, the north face of rumbling bald, eagle rock, and cloven cliff even if a long hike is required to get to some of the climbing areas
165	less disturbance of the land, but still usable by the public
166	Less impact on surrounding area. Reopens an upper trail in the park. Visitors Center in Lake Lure - good idea.
167	Locating the Visitor Center near new bridge
168	Long hikes
169	Long loop trail/thru-hike, access to Ghost Town and north face of Rumbling Bald climbing
170	long loop trails, full access to the entire park. recent closures are completely disatisfying and extremely limit the parks potential



QUESTION 9 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

171	Long loop trails, more access points, mnt biking
172	Long loops with easy bailout access.
173	Longer trails.
174	Love the addition of mountain biking trails! IMBA needs to help design these trails. The southwest NC mountains are already a mountain biking destination. Great trails here would draw people to the Lake Lure area in addition to the trails in Pisgah, Tsail, etc. The backpacking areas look great as well.
175	Love the loop hiking! Love the mtn biking at north end!
176	Low impact activities. We do not need long car lines or RV's here. Too many curves, too much exhaust, too many people. The infrastructure will not support the increase in traffic. Have another entrance in Edneyville with tent camping.
177	Low Impact but ample parking for climbing areas.
178	Low Impact Recreation 1) I like that there are several campgrounds, especially the group campground in the Orchard area. 2) I like that there is a World's Edge day use area. 3) I agree with placing a visitor center in the Meadows area, which grants visitors free access to the trails. The entrance fee should only apply to those driving to the top and riding the elevator.
179	Low impact recreation such as sustainable multi-use (hiking and mountain biking) trails and primitive camping are what I prefer to campgrounds, picnic areas, etc...
180	Low impact to the environment.
181	Lower impact overall with enhanced current access. Access to Shumont Mountain
182	many activity based options, hiking, climbing, etc.
183	Maps are too small/poor resolution to read. Rock climbing is my #1, #2 and #3 priority. Public camping would be a bonus, since right now there are only private options.
184	More access and activities
185	More backpacking and hiking opportunities without cutting back on existing recreational areas
186	More climbing access and mt bike trails
187	more hiking trails
188	more hiking trails to significant peaks and extended hikes
189	more hiking trails, more camping areas
190	More hiking trails, without the vehicle traffic
191	More hiking, better access, less construction needed.
192	More likely to allow rock climbing.
193	More options.
194	More recreation opportunities for the general public, especially access to climbing areas and (a distant second) mountain biking opportunities.
195	More trails
196	More trails - especially mountain biking. Connect to Weed Patch to expand biking later. Connect trails to other proposed trail systems in the gorge.
197	more trails and opportunities for exploration. Bike trails
198	More trails, more access to backcountry areas.
199	Mountain Bike
200	Mountain bike access.
201	Mountain bike route, hiking trails, still large amount of conservation.
202	Mountain bike trail
203	Mountain bike trail.
204	Mountain bike trails
205	mountain bike trails
206	mountain bike trails
207	Mountain Bike Trails
208	Mountain Bike Trails
209	mountain bike trails
210	MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
211	Mountain bike trails
212	Mountain Bike Trails
213	mountain bike trails
214	mountain bike trails
215	Mountain bike trails
216	MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
217	Mountain bike trails separate from hikers and horses - for safety.
218	mountain bike trails, backpack camping area, limited vehicle access & building infrastructure.
219	Mountain bike trails.
220	Mountain bike trails.
221	Mountain bike trails
222	Mountain Biking
223	Mountain biking

QUESTION 9 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

224	mountain biking
225	Mountain Biking
226	Mountain biking
227	mountain biking
228	Mountain Biking
229	Mountain Biking
230	Mountain Biking
231	Mountain biking
232	Mountain biking
233	Mountain Biking
234	Mountain Biking
235	Mountain Biking
236	Mountain biking
237	mountain biking
238	Mountain biking
239	Mountain biking access.
240	Mountain biking and camping
241	mountain biking and camping
242	Mountain biking and hiking.
243	Mountain Biking in a low impact area
244	Mountain biking options are very limited in the gorge so adding trails would draw a lot more visitors to the park. I also like the idea of backpacking trails and primitive camping options.
245	Mountain Biking possibilities and also Climbing access
246	Mountain biking single track
247	Mountain biking trail
248	mountain biking trails
249	Mountain biking trails
250	mountain biking trails
251	Mountain biking trails
252	Mountain biking trails
253	Mountain biking trails
254	mountain biking trails
255	mountain biking trails
256	mountain biking trails
257	mountain biking trails
258	Mountain Biking trails
259	mountain biking trails
260	Mountain biking trails
261	Mountain Biking trails and camping
262	mountain biking trails, extended hiking
263	mountain biking trails, sustainable single track is low impact, great exercise and a beautiful way to see the park
264	Mountain biking, basic amenities, but more loops
265	Mountain biking, camp sites.
266	Mountain biking, uni-directional downhill trails with input/exit points just like kayaking. Proper signage to indicate such.
267	Mountainbiking
268	mountainbiking, hiking, camping
269	Mountian Biking access loop with camping opportunities.
270	moutain biking
271	mt bike trailes
272	MTB trail option
273	mtb trails
274	MTB TRAILS
275	Mtn Biking
276	mtn biking
277	mtn biking opportunities
278	Mtn Biking trails
279	Mtn Biking, backpacking, day use area
280	Mtn. bike trails, human powered low impact recreation
281	Mtn. Biking
282	mtn.bike loop, low-impact emphasis
283	Multiple hiking trails, increased uses, a wider nature experience.



QUESTION 9 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

284	Must expand rock climbing areas. This is regionally significant area - thousands of climbers visit annually. There is 20+ year history of climbing. Many developed areas not on your map.
285	must have camping facility somewhere in park! MUST open as many cliffs as possible to rock climbing as an approved activity. Climbers are one of the areas largest and most responsible user groups. Climbers are good environmental stewards. Opening more areas mitigates the impact of any user group. Both the north and south sides of Rumbling Bald should be open to climbing. Round Top Mountain should be open to climbing. The Worlds Edge tracts cliffs should be open to climbing as should various cliffs in chimney Rock Park proper that are not above trails. Climb is a historic use of all these areas with usage dating back to at least the 1960s.
286	98145.452
287	New mountain biking trails
288	Not excessive impact, but plenty of human powered access.
289	On behalf of Cane Creek Cycling Components, based in Fletcher, we are very interested in seeing mountain bike opportunities within the Chimney Rock/Lake Lure area. With both "Low Impact" and "Intensive" we see the opportunity for trail development as a positive step, and would like to see it also included in "Conservation."
290	open land, fellow users understand the value of the open space.
291	Open to more rock climbing
292	opening up more areas
293	Our family looks for parks with single track mountain bike trails. Pocohantas State Park and Douthat State Park in Virginia are great examples how to utilize tax dollars to meet the needs of the public.
294	Overnight camping
295	Personally, I want access to all the climbing areas. But I am happy to see recreational access for others with other interests.
296	picnic areas, pavillions for renting for private parties
297	Plenty of hiking trails, and climbing but not overloaded with parking, roads, and picnic areas.
298	Preservation of existing natural elements, less impact
299	Preservation of land, wildlife, and ecosystems, hiking trails, welcome center across from Town Hall
300	Preservation of the parks wildlife, plant and geologic communities for all to enjoy.
301	Preserving the natural resource. Attracting large crowd's with intensive recreation will only damage the resource. Look at the changes being made to Yosemite NP currently to reduce the amount of traffic in the park.
302	primarily i am interested in the mountain biking and hiking trails near rumbling bald, which both option 2 & 3 have the same. i think the intensive recreation site with parking for 300 could be used for large outdoor festival events. i also think the day use area by the bottomless pools would be utilized.
303	Proposed mountain biking trails.
304	Protecting the native rare plants. Most citizens do not realize the impact they may have on some of the native species, especially rare ones.
305	Protection of nationally significant SNHAs but providing hiking - more hiking should be provided on more usable land so the SNHA's are not destroyed. I also like the visitor center across from Town Hall so people can get info before deciding where to go.
306	Provides a greater proportion of undisturbed land.
307	Provides many opportunities for recreation while preserving the natural beauty of the area.
308	Re-open trails to top of waterfall
309	Reinstate the original trails to top of Hickory Nut Falls. Improve safety of trails. Keep the park as a natural area rather than a commercial hub.
310	Reopen bottomless pools to the public
311	Restricting access to naturally significant area impact by focusing on the more available and usable area.
312	Right balance of access and impact. Mountain Biking trails are very important for any state park to address the needs of park users and, when done correctly, are environmentally sensitive. This also allows for another user group to provide volunteer hours for maintenance and enhancement of park facilities.
313	Rock climbers should have access to ALL rock within the park. Access to all rock will mitigate use impact in the already over-used areas (Rumbling Bald). There needs to be adequate parking and information on where to park and how to reach various areas of the park. Opening more areas will bring more people to the park on a year round basis, and will economically benefit the local areas. Climbers are traditionally a low impact group, who are willing to chip in and help with trail building, information dissemination, and clean up. Working with climbers is wise, as they will return the sentiment over a long term period of time, to help maintain the park.
314	rock climbing
315	98145.452
316	Rock Climbing
317	Rock climbing
318	rock climbing
319	rock climbing
320	Rock Climbing Access
321	Rock climbing and bouldering
322	rumbling access & expansion
323	see question #11

QUESTION 9 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

324	Seems like the best compromise. Intensive is too much development, conservation is very close second as I think the trails are very good now
325	Seems to keep climbers, hikers and other low impact park users in mind, but keeps environmental impact to a minimum. Seems like a good balance.
326	shumont
327	Shumont Mountain Day use Area and the Shumont Mountain Bike Trails
328	Slight improvements to roads/parking for access to Rumbling bald. Last year (during the peak bouldering season- the winter months) the parking area was approaching max capacity on weekends.
329	slow growth of park additions to see how it impacts the current wilderness.
330	State Parks should be accessible for the public to use and enjoy, this alternative allows for the widest range of that use.
331	Sustainably built trails, specific to low impact users (mountain bikers, climbers and hikers) and utilizing minimal disruption and development of park land, presents itself as a worthwhile investment. Human powered activities, typically supported by those who practice "leave no trace" philosophies, are a natural match for promoting outdoor physical activities that encourage healthier lifestyles and kindness to the environment in which we love to play.
332	Taking advantage of already existing developed areas. Looks like rock climbing areas will be accessible and protected, but not likely to garner huge crowds.
333	Tent camping options and additional hiking trails.
334	Tent camping, more hiking opportunities, picnic areas in more places and most of all that people of all abilities can enjoy the park. The park needs to have enough roads and trails so everyone can enjoy it regardless of their athletic ability.
335	tent camping, multiple access points, multiple parking areas, improved and established new trails, rock climbing, bouldering.
336	tent camping; No RV's; No light pollution
337	That it provides for visitor but does little to disturb natural setting
338	The 10-mile mountain bike trail.
339	The addition of Rumbling Bald Ridge
340	The additional of Mountain Bike Trails
341	The additional trails, both hiking and biking. More access. Several camping options.
342	The balance between conservation and park development for recreational use; I especially like as well access thru Lake Lure Town Center to Meadows/Park HQ and trail access from Lake Lure; also like locations of camping areas at Cane Creek Mtn. near Rumbling Bald Resort.
343	The climbing and mountain biking opportunities.
344	the day-use areas at Shumont and Rumbling Bald. Also, more trails.
345	The easy access for more people to utilize the park and the mountain bike trails
346	The expansion of the Rumbling Bald climbing area.
347	The fact that existing disturbed areas will be use for future expansion.
348	The focus on Outdoor Recreation oportunities in the park --- particularly mtn. biking and rock climbing
349	The hiking and mountain bike trails
350	The idea of a having a second way into the Park is a good idea. I am interested in having more hiking and biking options.
351	The inclusion of mountain bike trails
352	The inclusion of mountain biking trails without over-development of the area.
353	The increased hiking trails throughout the entire park and the ability to create looped hikes. I also like the visitor center closer to the impacted area and not building a long, winding road to access it. Back country sites are essential.
354	The increased number and tie-in of hiking trails.
355	the intensive alternative appears to have the best accessible trails
356	The Lake Lure/Chimney Rock area has been "invaded" by too many folks who are from other states. While I welcome their appreciation of our beautiful area, I feel that they have ruined it somewhat by constantly building, tearing up nature and, as a native of Rutherford County, I would like to see this kind of so-called "progress" ended. They aren't making any more land...and this land should and must be saved before becoming the "Disney Land" of western North Carolina. I grew up water skiing, hiking, tubing and loving this area. That love will always be in my heart. I just visited Alaska and am thankful for the preservation of one of our last wildernesses. Please do all you can to preserve the beautiful, natural areas. Please don't build anymore million dollar homesites and leave some of the beauty for future generations! PLEASE!
357	The low impact recreation alternative provides many desirable elements: It provides for many miles of hiking options to explore and enjoy the park. It provides backpacking possibilities for serious hikers. People traveling long distances to visit the park, have the option of staying at a walk-in campsite; this makes a long trip more feasible. The park's visitor center is inside the park, and it is in the "Meadows". The "Orchards" are largely left alone. A major road project is not cut through the heart of the park. More intense development is kept on the park's edges, except for the core, already disturbed, attraction area.



QUESTION 9 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

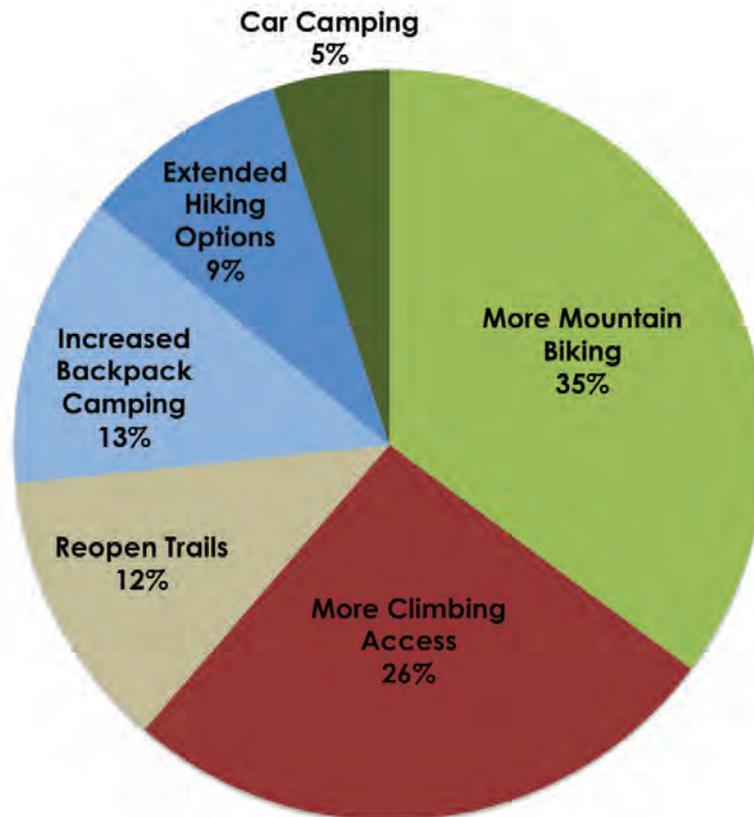
358	The low impact recreation option makes the most sense for future growth. It offers the kind of outdoor experiences guests are looking to find - more and varied hiking opportunities, mountain biking, rock climbing and camping - without compromising the sensitive environment that makes this area so special. The proposed location for a Visitors Center on the upper Meadows is not unlike a plan the Morse family had once considered for a multi-purpose complex - a ticket office, orientation area, with information and educational areas and retail and office space. Traffic flow could be better managed during the busy season with guests being transported to and from the top of the mountain from this area by buses or trams on a controlled schedule. Owning and operating a campground is almost prohibitive with the cost of real estate in a tourist community. Adding primitive and family camping is an important amenity for any State Park. I'm not the best judge of where it should be located, but making different types of camping space available would be very important to this community and our guests.
359	The low-impact recreation combines a nice amalgamation of conservation efforts and recreation opportunities. The impact of a visitor's center, access road(s) for the center, RV camping, a parking lot for 300 cars, and other development would be quite detrimental for the habitat in the Orchards area.
360	The mountain bike trail.
361	The Mountain bike trails
362	The mountain bike trails offer a low impact way to conserve and get people out in the woods so they can become more connected.
363	The mountain bike trails, although I would like to see longer distance options.
364	The mountain bike trails.
365	The mutiple day use areas and the many camping/rv opportunities and extensive trail network. I definetly think that we should be developing a high use park. There is just so much to do and explore in and around the gorge.
366	The park is uniquely situated for access (Greenville, Asheville, Atlanta, Charlotte, etc.). As such, it seems most appropriate to utilize it for the recreational opportunities that this natural area affords. Additionally, recreational use would appear to most benefit the town of Lake Lure.
367	The potential for future access for rock climbing
368	The preservation of nature and existing beauty
369	The recreation focus seems most compatible with climbing access.
370	The respect for the environment and protection of rare species. The understanding of the importance of viewshed protection.
371	The road that goes to lake Lure from the meadows, prefer the visitor center to be located at the meadows and have a separate road without an fee station. The present road to the top needs a lot of work done to it as well as the water and sewer system.
372	The state park system in NC really needs some good single track mountain bike trails.
373	The trail to the falls top, although it isn't close enough to the edge of the cliffs. Also the better parking and the chimney rock trail that is long.
374	The trails
375	The trails, increased access points, and camping opportunities.
376	The trails, new accesses, camping, and climbing access at Rumbling Bald.
377	The variety of trails and access to lands that we can't get to today
378	The Visitor Center being located across from Town Hall
379	The Visitor Center in the community... more accessible to the public than in the Meadows or on top of the mountain. The added hiking trails! The mountain bike trails!
380	The Visitor's center down on hwy 64/74A, the restored Bottomless Pools day use area, the emphasis on conservation, tying trails into the Town of Lake Lure network
381	There are fewer places left where nature still reigns supreme. I love camping but would hate to see more roads in the park or wider wider and camping, with water and sewage needs despoiling the land.
382	This area needs to be a conservation park with limited access to protect the environmental/biological communities.
383	Tight turning and twisting single track mtn. bike trails with points of interest along to way to view and rest. I enjoy just getting out in the woods and seeing wildlife as I ride/stop on two wheels.
384	98145.452
385	98145.452
386	trails
387	Trails or trail connectivity for Cane Creek Mtn and Bottomless Pools; multiple day use areas; mountain bike trail section
388	trails to the orchard and bottomless pools
389	Trails, Access to overlooks
390	Trails, access to the orchards
391	trails, and multi-sport activities.
392	upper trails with great views
393	uses existing disturbed areas, improvements to entrance, more hiking trails
394	Using the existing park facilities and trail systems that are already in place. Listen to the people that come to the park....They want the Skyline Trail opened..it is all they care about...
395	Utilizing the land to provide wider use and providing the public with more varied uses.
396	Variety



QUESTION 9 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

397	Vehicle Management
398	Visitor center good idea
399	Visitor center, parking options and possibility of a paved road into the Orchard and the top of Chimney Rock Mountain
400	We would like access to all of the rock in the gorge, especially areas that are already developed or in development such as Ghost Town, Cloven Cliffs, Eagle Rock, The Dark Side, etc. 2. Opening more cliffs will mean a) reduced impact on the already hammered Rumbling Bald, as our numbers would spread over a larger area, b) year-round visitors to the park, and c) increased economic activity for the surrounding community. 3. New routing should be allowed to continue in the park. 4. We are a low impact user group. All we really need to practice our sport are trails, water, parking and camping. For good climbing we'll hike. Visual and environmental impact can be mitigated through intelligent trail building, permitting, cliff-top anchors, etc. And we can be counted on to volunteer, building trails, picking up trash, etc.
401	Whichever that has the most mtn. biking trails
402	Would like to include equestrian trails.
403	Would love to see the park stay just like it is now. It should be assessible to horse back riding and hikers which would have the lowest impact on the property. No motorized vehicles in the park at all.

QUESTION 10 (OPEN-ENDED): FOR YOUR MOST PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE, PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES YOU WOULD MAKE FOR IT TO REFLECT YOUR OWN VISION FOR THE FUTURE CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK (graph shows top results, individual responses are listed on the following pages)





QUESTION 10 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

1	<p>1. If at all possible I think the park should reopen the Skyline and Cliff trails at Chimney Rock. Other than the rock itself, these two trails are the center piece of what folks want inside the fee area. If rock climbing is allowed, I'm not sure how liability is such an issue.</p> <p>2. An area for tent camping needs to be developed. RV and trailer camping areas would be nice, but only if you can find a low impact area that is easily accessible.</p> <p>3. A trail to the large waterfall on Pool Creek would be great.</p> <p>4. At some point, access from Proctor Road needs to be developed. The old logging road from Proctor Road to World's Edge is a great hiking and mountain biking area. None of the proposals have a trail in the heart of the Pool Creek/World's Edge tract and this is missing a huge part of what makes this park great.</p> <p>5. The more hiking trails the better!</p> <p>6. Definitely continue to allow rock climbing at Rumbling Bald and expand rock climbing areas as long as the environment is not damaged.</p>
2	<p>1. Day use area for higher public visitation to the Bottomless Pools</p> <p>2. Car-camping site area developed</p> <p>3. One trail only sensitively sited between Round-top and Rumbling Bald in cove and streams area -- run trail near along base of Rumbling bald cliffs</p>
3	10-12 miles of rolling single track
4	2 price structures, one low ticket price for meadow picnic area/ and for those that just want to ride up and experience the area and take pictures from the chimney, and move on to other activities down in the town, then a 2nd choice higher price ticket for long stays and hiking long trails
5	20-25 miles of mountain bike trails would make this a destination, especially with the other facilities
6	A clear policy on climbing and biking access. Yearly passes.
7	a little more mountain biking trail, 10 miles is a bit short
8	A longer loop of bike trail and tent/trailer campground with hot showers.
9	access for more climbing options other than what is currently available at the rumbling bald. would relieve impact at that destination.
10	access to all rock faces for climbing. New routes allowed via a "permit system"
11	Access to all rock-climbing areas, on trails that don't impact the view for others (hikers, photographers). Permit-based route setup, with permanent anchors at the top of routes as approved by park service. Some composting-type restroom facilities, such as at Thomas Knob on Mt Rogers, Va and on the A.T. at a few key locations. Limited parking with hike-in.
12	access to all trails, just alternate different days for different uses.
13	access to Round Top Mountain, climbing access via Mtn. Bike access to N. side of Rumbling Bald Mtn., consideration of climbing manager position or recreation-based position to work specifically with recreation
14	Access to the climbing areas on the north face of Rumbling Bald.
15	Add a day use area at bottomless pools and a few picnic areas
16	add a network of trails (or one trail) that circumnavigates the park - it would bring riders from all over
17	add climbing to the plan
18	add montain biking trails using paris mountain SC state park or pispah as models
19	Add more hiking trails, rock climbing off of Boys Camp Rd, even bike trails, but leave public camping out of the mixture for fire considerations and do this slowly to be able to gage the impact it has on the area.
20	Add more miles - more trails
21	Add more mountain bike trails..a 10 mile loop is great but additional trails would allow for trails for all skill levels which could be left out with a single ten mile loop.
22	Add more mountain biking trails
23	add more mountain biking trails, accessible from Chimney Rock/Lake Lure areas
24	<p>Add more trails at the top of Chimney Rock to the falls.</p> <p>Add hike in camping spots.</p> <p>Add in smaller pavilions for small gatherings.</p> <p>Add water fountains near trail heads.</p>
25	Add mt. biking trails
26	add parking area for climbing access to Round Top Mountain, add trail for climbing access to North Face of Rumbling Bald, climber-friendly car camping
27	add the Weed Patch area to the park to enable safe and logical hiking and mountain biking routes. Current plans show mountain biking and hiking on extremely unsafe and biologically valuable nationally significant SNHA's -- acquisition of Weed Patch would allow not only an additional needed state road access, but a reasonable amount of land to provide for the required 10 miles of bike paths. It would be foolish and unpopular to route the hikes and mountain biking from the top of Shumont Mountain. Homeowners do not want the public to access, and the back side of Rumbling Bald is not reasonable terrain for either mountain biking or hiking. It additionally has extremely sensitive areas which should be protected. Weed Patch is already owned by a conservation group, so would not require tedious landowner negotiations. Additionally CWMTF has indicated that it is top on the list of properties to be financed in the mountains when funding becomes available. With so few activities currently available in the park, this option would require no road construction and no access hassles. It additionally would spread traffic out to a third access direction, being only 20 minutes from I-40. All other activity options in the park have lengthy and expensive timelines -- why not provide the public with activities right away on Weed Patch? Also, if recreation is restricted on valuable lands without providing suitable alternatives, people will continue to use the land inappropriately, and preservation will be lost. The park has received so much media attention that this conundrum must be addressed. We must find a solution which provides reasonable recreation but which still protects the natural resource.
28	Addition of cross country and downhill specific mountain bike trails.

QUESTION 10 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

29	Addition of day use area at bottomless pools. Keep it as natural and undisturbed as possible while still allowing access.
30	Additional mtn biking trails
31	Again I would like to see more opportunities for climbers on some of the other great cliffs of the area. It would be nice to have a good working relationship with the state at this Park. Rumbling Bald is a fantastic area, but there is so much more available that should be considered.
32	Again, separate the biking trails from the hiking trails (for safety reasons) and keep bikes out of the existing park. RE-OPEN THE SKYLINE TRAIL TO THE TOP OF THE FALLS. THE CLIFF TRAIL TOO - BUT THAT MAY BE TOUGHER B/C OF THE COST. I'd pay more to get in the park to fund the rebuild of the Cliff Trail.
33	Allow climbing access to Round Top Mountain and the North Side of Rumbling Bald.
34	allow climbing in all areas, create mountain bike specific trail systems
35	Allow mountain biking on more trails
36	Allow Rock Climbing! Preserve areas that are ecologically sensitive. Don't waste money building roads and Visitor centers that people will infrequently visit (Orchards Area). Specifically, minimize impact as much as possible while allowing visitors to pursue their own avenues of recreation. Whether it be kayaking, biking, rock climbing, hiking, or just enjoying the day. Please spend money wisely on what actual park users actually prefer doing. And most importantly please don't limit access of Chimney Rock to rock climbers.. we're willing to pay for use, but un-willing to pay a guides service for what we can do ourselves. Don't monopolize the climbing sector by requiring guides. It is demeaning, and most of all it actually reduces the amount of users. Thus the park takes in less money, and there is an inconsistent user base. By allowing and supporting rock climbers, mountain bikers, improved hiking, Chimney Rock state park will attract attention from users all over the southeast. It could be the best state park in the US, if it catered to more than just the infrequent tourist.
37	Although the topography makes it impractical. I would still like to see vehicle accessible camping.
38	Another mountain bike trail/loop with accessible camping (tent) and hot showers
39	Appreciation Opportunities: meaning to provide users of each 'type of activity' with the opportunity to view 'other users of other activities' so each 'group' can gain a better appreciation for the others. (help to minimize contention). Might also set aside certain areas as 'protected' and to only be used for minimalists activities (hiking)
40	As a rock climber I would love to see continued access to areas that have already been developed such as Rumbling Bald proper, while ensuring access to lesser known, but developed areas such as Ghost Town, Eagle Rock, The North Side of Rumbling Bald and I'm sure there are more that I am missing. This may already be a part of the "low impact recreation" alternative, but it was tough to tell.
41	As an experienced rock climber who has traveled extensively, I realize that Hickory nut gorge is home to some of the finest rock climbing and bouldering in the country. I hope the state park will realize that Chimney rock park is the yosemite of the east and will allow rock climbing on round top mountain, the north face of rumbling bald, eagle rock, and cloven cliff. The climbing at these areas in the park in addition to rumbling bald is truly world class, and if proper camping facilities are built in the park, visiting climbers will be a valuable source of income for local businesses during peak climbing season (October - March) when visitation is traditionally down.
42	Be sure to keep gift shops and high density tourist areas tightly contained.
43	Be sure to staff Shumont Road entrance and activities - improve Shumont Road
44	better access for low impact use
45	Better access with trash cans available in multiple locations. A water fountain would be nice as well.
46	Bigger Mountain bike Loop
47	Bring back the "Last of the Mohecians (sp?) Trail" Allow Mountain Bikers to volunteer to maintain the trail.
48	Camp sites close to climbing areas would give an excellent option to proximate of climbing routes to camp sites. Open climbing at Round Top and Chimney Rock
49	can we increase any of the mtb trails?
50	Can you make that map in a size that I can print off the computer and still read? Or send in a pdf? pbuede@bellsouth.net
51	Can't think of a thing.
52	Car camping
53	Change from the lack of mtn. bike trails or prohibited use of existing trails to the building of mtn. bike trails and the allowed use of existing trails for mtn. biking.
54	Chimney Rock Park needs a Grand Lodge similar to those found at Yosemite and Grand Canyon. Most local lodging is dated. A grand lodge would be an economic engine for area.
55	Chimney Rock Park's greatest resources is its beauty and potential for outdoor recreation. There is a lot of rock with in the borders of the park. The staggering amount of potentially climbable rock, coupled with the parks accessibility and proximity to Asheville, could potentially make this area one the greatest rock climbing destinations on the east coast. However, this can only be fully actualized if climbers are granted access to the north facing side of the gorge. This would allow for excellent climbing in all seasons, further increasing the utility of the park.
56	Clearly mark trails and keep different activities separate. Hikers, bikers, and horses don't mix well.
57	Combining parts of alt #1 and #2 seem to be a solution that will keep the Park alive and healthy and still have growth.
58	Conservation-preferred-add mtn. trails, trails, and some day use areas of #2, none of #3.
59	Conservation/preservation is of great importance - I would like to see a reasonable blend of low impact recreation designed with conservation/preservation in mind.
60	Consider re-pen Cliff & Skyline Trail
61	Create a trail or parking area for access to "Ghost Town"/Round Top Mountain



QUESTION 10 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

62	Definitely acquire and develop activity center at Bottomless Pools; Provide trail access connecting north and south portions of CRSP; Incorporate Lake Lure Summits Trail for extended hiking opportunity around heights/ridges above Lake Lure.
63	Designate specific sensitive areas to be conserved and let people recreate on the rest.
64	Develop tent and trailer camping in Worlds Edge camp area. No 4-wheelers on off-road motor bedes anywhere in park.
65	Development of former Skyline Trail and Cliffside Trail. What's going to happen to Inspiration Point? Top of Falls? Would like future access.
66	discounts available for students
67	dispersed access points
68	Education is the most effective way. If some controls are in place, such as guided group tours of sensitive areas, citizens will respond more ethically to impacts on the rare plants, etc.
69	Encourage addition of Weed Patch property beyond Rumbling Bald Resort for more trails and ideal location for any trail/bike trails that might be considered.
70	Ensure recreational rock climbing access to not only Rumbling Bald, but also permit the public (non-guided trips) to climb on Chimney Rock proper.
71	Expand the study area north to include Weed Patch Mountain so logical hiking and biking opportunities can be provided without expensive road building, and so the SNHA's can be protected.
72	From Exclamation Point, I would like to see the original trail to the top of the falls reopened with improvements for safety only, then it could be extended out to the orchard trail. The walk along the edge of the cliffs was my favorite part of the park. You are losing a wonderful and unique part of your park by closing that area.
73	have not yet been
74	Having Mountain Bike Trails.
75	horseback riding
76	Horses (not motorized)
77	I am not sure of the purpose of a large visitor center. It would appear more prudent, and less impacting, to ensure that human impact is minimized as people enjoy the park. In my experience, this requires clearly marked / maintained / adequate parking, clearly posted trailheads and garbage receptacles and restrooms.
78	I am pleased with what I see. A lot of study has gone into these plans.
79	I am unsure of whether this is already part of the alternative, but I would like to see the parking area for climbing access become more accessible to vehicles with lower ground clearance, even if that means requiring a longer walk-in to the climbing areas.
80	I cannot tell for sure if the old upper loop trail to upper falls is in any of the alternatives, but I think it is crazy to not refurbish and reopen this trail, it is the pinnacle of why I ever visited the park.
81	I do have a concern about the environmental impact of any new vehicular roads. I believe it WILL be necessary to create some new access roads, but I would favor the vehicular routes that would limit environmental impact (the "west side of Chimney Rock Mountain" route that's mentioned does NOT sound good).
82	I do like the additional camping areas that are in the Intensive Recreation section, but think the (IR) may be to intensive for the park.
83	I do not know what is being considered in terms of climbing access for the Round Top Mountain Conservation MGMT Area of proposed Chimney Rock State Park visitor center. I believe all areas should be open to climbing except where rockfall is an imminent threat to parked cars or major trails used by other visitors.
84	I do not like the idea of building a new road or a visitor center at the orchard. I think the elevator built into the mountain is a travesty and would prefer to avoid any additional intense changes to the area. Although additional camping and access options would be beneficial. I do not see a benefit to installing a visitor center at the Rumbling Bald access point.
85	I do not like the visitor center as part of any plan.
86	I do not see any plans for drive-in camping, and think that this is a pivotal issue, particularly if we are to draw the climbers who would come here, given access and a place to lay their head.
87	I don't want there to be a zoo of people
88	I have learned to trust the vision of our park developers to design what is best for the terrian and ecology.
89	I hope parking 300 cars doesnt ruin the park. Maybe parking the cars below somewhere and bringing people up by bus is a better option.
90	I like alternative #2 with the lowest amount of impact possible.
91	I like the conservation approach, however I would recognize that climbers and backpackers are conservation-oriented people and that they are good stewards of the area.
92	I like the idea of expanding rock climbing offerings in the area. Currently, less than 20% of the cliffs in the project area are open to rock climbing, which is minimally invasive and low-impact. If the general rule was that climbing would be allowed in all areas except those that require special environmental exceptions, that would be incredible! High-impact recreation (ORVs, picnic and car camping areas, visitor center, etc.) should be concentrated in areas that are already developed to preserve open space.
93	I like the idea of low impact activities but am disapointed it does not include more MTB trails. The trails could be multiuse, allowing for more trail for all users. This model has been successful in other parts of the state.
94	I Like whichever alternative opens up the most climbing.
95	I love the plan as is.
96	I really hope the Cliffs trail can be reopened at some point.

QUESTION 10 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

97	I think I answered this in #9. More parking, primitive camping would be great.
98	I think that the local climbers really value as much access to climbing as possible. North Carolina climbers are known to be respectful, responsible and aware and could be a keystone in the successful development of the state park.
99	I think we can all share the trails. It would nice, however, to limit horse back and mountain bike riding to specific times and days so that those who long for the quiet can be assured sole access to the trails occasionally.
100	I think you have a great opportunity to make a wonderful park! With the long range views and the lay of the land. I would like to see more multi-use trails in areas away from the populated areas. It would be great to see some mt biking trails on the worlds edge side so you are not putting all the riders in one area. Dupont is a great example of trails built for all users. Building trails that are for multi-use and built right would give all users of the park a great experience. We all want people to get outside and enjoy our wonderful state! The more we can get people outside and using our park system the better we will all be.
101	I was not able to clearly see access points from the map. I would like to see access to the Shumont Mountain area from Hwy 9/Shumont Road in Buncombe County if possible.
102	i would add a longer bike trail, perhaps more of them
103	I would add a slightly longer loop of bike trail and a tent-only campground with hot showers connected by a short bike trail
104	I would add mountain biking on the northern end of the park.
105	I would allow more longer trails and more primitive camping in back woods area.
106	I would also support approval of any other climbing areas that are in the park such as Hickory Nut Gorge.
107	I would consider the addition of a few of the low impact recreation features suggested in alternative 2, including the proposed egress road if it can be limited to very moderate impact to the environment and to the seclusion of the private homes in the area.
108	I would create a sustainable network of mountain biking single track trails. The more trails the more times you have to come back to ride them all, and the more times you'll want to come back to do them again.
109	I would encourage providing a corridor for the Mountain Bike trails to connect to the town of Lake Lure. This could be a shared use path (hikers and bikers where bikers yield to hikers) or a separate trail for bikers. Many mountain bikers would love to bike a 10 to 20 mile trail and then frequent the restuarant and attractions in Lake Lure but may not camp. This allows for a bikers to access the park without have to drive to the day use parking lot.
110	I would extend the mountain bike trail to at least 20 miles. Combined with tent/trailer camping, it would then be a destination unto itself for this activity.
111	I would hope for designated areas specific to biking, hiking and climbing alongside the common visitor, so as to draw in plenty of park visitors from several groups of significant size, but maintaining a feeling of community and remoteness within each niche. ie: designated, sustainable mountain bike trails where pride in ownership is supported in part by volunteer efforts of the likes of IMBA ie: hiking trails could quite possibly be used in rotation - for possibly a year at a time and likewise, mountain bike trails could be used by hikers, kind of like recycling trails or rotating crops. ie: giving climbers access to more area in the gorge would reduce their impact on any one particular area, allowing plenty of options less visible signs of use.
112	I would just love to see real single track mountain bike trails at the park. Please note that double track service roads are NOT what mountain bikers are looking for.
113	I would like hiking and primitive camping with picnic tables
114	I would like more camping options closer to the Rumbling Bald climbing areas.
115	I would like new routing to be allowed in the park.
116	I would like the addition of backpack camping area by Cane Creek as shown in the Low Impact Recreation alternative.
117	I would like to be able to have some mountain bike trails. I would encourage the designation of some of the trails to not allow bikes.
118	I would like to see a larger trail network allowing mountain biking. Mountain biking has a similar environmental impact to hiking and should be treated as such. I would recommend mountain biking be included even in alternative 1. For alternatives 2 and 3 I would recommend extending the length of the mountain biking trail network to attract more users and provide a more enjoyable experience for mountain bikers. Additionally, while I do enjoy mountain bike specific trails I also would suggest making some trails multi-use so that multiple user groups are served for the same amount of impacted land.
119	I would like to see a lot more mountain bike trails, covering a lot more milage, perhaps circumnavigating the park. Many people aren't aware of how much ground mountain bikes can cover, and we can get a long way from parking areas quickly, minimizing any potential trail crowding. And, since mountain bikers prefer singletrack trails, which have a minimal impact on the surrounding forest, it's an easy way to attract users for the facility.
120	I would like to see an access point for hiking on or around Round Top Mountain.
121	I would like to see climbing allowed at Chimney Rock proper, Round Top, Eagle Rock and the north side of Rumbling Bald Mtn.
122	I would like to see more mountain biking trails and small parking lot trailheads created.
123	I would like to see more mountain biking trails.
124	I would like to see more mtn biking. Perhaps a large perimeter trail open to biker/hikers. Also, more access to rock climbing. Specifically permitting to allow colleges and universities to program at Chimney Rock.
125	I would like to see more provisions made for climber access to the major crags in the area. Specifically, addition of plan elements that directly speak to this use would be a valuable addition to the current options.
126	I would like to see mountain biking trails for beginners through advanced riders. I also would like to see opportunities for rock climbing throughout the park.



QUESTION 10 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

127	I would like to see public access to the top of the waterfall from the Orchards area. Also, I would like to see less of an emphasis on the communities of Chimney Rock Village and the Town of Lake Lure and more of an emphasis on Hickory Nut Gorge as a whole ecosystem.
128	I would like to see rb parking improved as well as the day use area added.
129	I would like to see the new Park road be a loop road ending in the Village of Chimney Rock vs. one way in from Chimney Rock and two-way traffic on the Lake Lure end.
130	I would like to see the park become a destination for Mountain biking.
131	I would like to see the skyline/cliff trail loop revisited. Even if the Skyline trail is no longer salvagable, the cliff trail is. And it already exists! It is unlike any other trail I have ever been on. Also, if the Orchard trail opens, it needs to go closer to the top of the falls.
132	I would love to see climbing access to Roundtop Mountain.
133	I would love to see Down Hill Specific Mountain bike trails
134	I would love to see the climbing opportunities at the the park expanded a little.
135	I would open all the proposed trails to mountain bikes.
136	I would open all the proposed trails to mountain biking. I see no reason why a properly designed and built trail should be limited to hiking only. Mountain biking is a responsible, low impact, appropriate use for trails. Mountain bikers have shared trail access with hikers very successfully in many trail systems.
137	I would prefer to see a better balance between the amount of hiking trails versus biking trails. Both user groups fall into the same class of trail impact but the bikes will be intensively restricted to a small 10 mile loop while hikers will be spread over many more miles of trail. I question whether the longer hiking routes will see enough traffic while similar longer bike routes would be a huge asset to the park. The other feature I would like to see is the addition of a tent/trailer campground with hot showers and connectivity to the bike trails. This combined with longer bike routes would create a big economic benefit for the area, drawing out of town visitors for weekend trips.
138	I would suggest keeping the proposed "Bottomless Pools Trail" connection to the "Lake Lure Greenway" to promote connectivity between the community and the park. I also suggest looking for ways, perhaps in partnership with Lake Lure, to connect the trail systems on the Rumbling Bald and Chimney Rock sides to the park together. I would prefer to see development in the "Orchards" limited to just a hiking trail; the back-pack campsites can be located elsewhere. Every parking area for the park should consider the needs of bicycling parking. The park should be a friendly place for people who opt to road-bike to the park instead of driving a car. The plan should consider equestrian use in the Rumbling Bald area.
139	I would vote for more miles of mt. biking trails. Since it doesn't take long to cover a lot of ground on a bike, people might get bored with the riding if there is not enough. Climbing should be allowed at any cliff and/or bouldering area possible. Climbing is a very low impact activity and the hickory nut gorge has some of the best rock in the country!
140	I'd like to see a day-use area - trails, parking, and restrooms, at Round Top Mountain
141	I'd like to see more climbing areas opened to the public and managed in a way like at Stone Mtn. State Park or Hanging Rock State Park.
142	If I were king, the Rumbling Bald side would stay as it is with the exception of toilet facilities, primitive camping and trail development with mountain-biking in mind. I like the idea of a visitor center for the Chimney Rock side in town. This would improve visibility and make the park more approachable. In addition, it would be nice to develop a system of trails on the Chimney Rock side.
143	If the conservation focused park alternative included mountain biking opportunities I would favor that plan heavily. I want to see Chimney Rock Park remain as primitive as possible. I concede that the existing facilities at Chimney Rock itself are a great resource but want to see minimal development outside of that area. I would like to see the Chimney Rock Thru Hike trail open to bikes. I value the Shumont Trails and the addition of any mountain bike trails in 2 of the alternatives but trails that go in circles are not fun to ride. As a mountain biker I like to go places and cover way more ground than I could on foot.
144	Including mountain bike trails in any plan that advances.
145	Increase the rock climbing opportunities. Right now everyone is focused on the south side of Rumbling Bald. If climbers were spread out they would lessen the impact to that area. State Parks should work with climbers to identify new areas to climb that do not negatively impact rare or threatened species. If trails and landing zones were created on the front end the park could control where and how any impact is likely to occur. Allowing mountain biking on trails in the park is essential. Partnerships with both climbers and mountain bikers could ease the burden placed on park staff by creating "Adopt a Trail" program and working with them up front. This will lessen confusion and potential misunderstandings.
146	Increased management planning and study areas on a cliff-by-cliff basis for rock climbing; increased rock climbing access in general; rock climbing access within the entire Rumbling Bald, Worlds Edge, and Rount Top Conservation Management Areas, as well as other areas of the park; rock climbing access within the Chimney Rock attraction area.
147	Intensive use - entrance from the West side of Sugarloaf Mountain
148	It is a crying shame that certain people in Raleigh can make decisions like closing the Skyline Cliff Trail without even understanding the consequences and how the park as a whole has basically dried up, and the village and citizens of Rutherford County are paying for it now!
149	It is not necessary to build a new visitor center on top of the park. Some basic parking and camping would be sufficient.
150	It's a good place to start.
151	Keep it low impact; limit the number of folks and vehicles on Shumont Rd. and access to Eagle Rock
152	keep it natural and not have trails over private property
153	Keep Rumbling Bald fairly primitive. Trails and rest rooms ok. Allow climbing on all aspects of mountain, Shumont and Round Top top too.
154	Keep the Mountain Bike trail system fairly independent from the standard hiking trails to minimize family hiking on the mountain bike trails.
155	Keep the visitor's center small. If you have one huge parking lot and visitor's center then the crowds will be congested there. I suggest a small visitor's center, if any, any multiple small parking lots instead of one huge one.

QUESTION 10 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

156	Lets get some mtn bike trails built. I would like to see shuttle type trails. Start at the top ride down than either have a personal shuttle or even a park shuttle for a small fee.
157	Limited use pass system can be used for any sensitive areas. Making the trail a bit longer for is a natural limiting device.
158	listed above
159	Longer (more than 10 miles) of mountain bike trails eventually.
160	Longer bike loop, camping options?
161	Longer biking trail. People who view an area as a "destination venue" for mountain biking will be MUCH more enthusiastic about driving to a venue if there are 20+ miles of trail. 10 miles is a minimum for this kind of attraction.
162	Longer biking trails that cover more area and elevation changes.
163	Longer mountain bike trail alternatives
164	Longer proposed trail.
165	Longer trail option for multi-purposed uses; hiking and biking. When I go to a destination (like Pisgah or Lake Norman State Park today), I would like to ride for at least 20 miles minimum and up to 100 miles combined singletrack/doubletrack.
166	Longer trails
167	Lots of trails and access to bouldering/rock climbing will bring in tourism and funds for conservation. Primitive camping and water would be great for people who travel from out of town to use the park.
168	low-impact single-track mountain biking trails in the conservation plan
169	Lower parking capacity in Orchards
170	Lower the fee per person, per day. For someone who is on a fixed income or low wage it becomes prohibitively expensive.
171	Many miles of biking trails
172	maybe longer bike trails
173	Maybe the picnic area could be farther from the bat cave conservation area. Where people gather and eat, people explore.
174	More ~2-5 hr loop trails.
175	more access to rock climbing
176	More access to the climbing areas in the park to spread out the climbers, increase the climbing options and to reduce impact to the already popular Rumbling Bald climbing areas.
177	More activities with same entrance/exit = more visitors to area year round. Year round activities = year round business
178	more affordable access to the park
179	More and better marked vehicle access
180	More and long bike trails so you could spend the better part of a day there instead of completing the trail in about 90 minutes.
181	More biking and overnight group tent camping
182	More camping options. Review Skyline/Cliff Trail
183	more choices for short and medium length trails with easily accessible trailheads
184	More climbing access and opportunities. Please add drive-in tent camping. My wife and children enjoy camping and it would allow us to visit for a weekend vs. a day trip.
185	More cycling opportunities on the World Edge side.
186	More emphasis on nature beauty seen from 64 & 74
187	more hiking trails in Chimney Rock area
188	More low/high impact activities, year round activities, more kids education
189	More milage on the Mtn Bike Trails.
190	More mileage added to Mountain Bike Trails
191	More Mountain bike specific trails or shared use with hiking
192	More Mountain Bike Trails
193	more mountain bike trails
194	more mountain bike trails,
195	More mountain bike trails.
196	More Mountain Biking
197	More mountain biking allowed if possible. The impact of bikes in the woods is over estimated by most and if allowed would be a wonderful addition to a beautiful park.
198	More mountain biking trails
199	more mountainbike trails
200	more mtn biking trails



QUESTION 10 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

201	More open climbing areas
202	More opportunities for rock climbing! This is an incredible area with the potential for spectacular lines. It would be great if areas that were previously only open for guided groups were opened up to the general public. North Carolina rock climbers as a group tend to be conscientious and I feel they would become a resource that could be tapped to help park officials turn this into a reality. There are several areas in the State that offer reasonable travel and hiking for quality climbing and I really appreciate that; having such a beautiful area in close proximity to the park facilities would make this a top notch destination.
203	More or longer mountain bike trails and drive-up tent camping near an access point to the bike trails
204	More remote access points
205	more rock climbing
206	More rock climbing and mountain biking
207	More smaller parking areas. That helps spread any potential traffic congestion. Similar to how they have it at DuPont State forest.
208	More tent camping.
209	more trails
210	more trails with educational information along the way
211	More trails, more MTB designated trails, more primitive camping.
212	More/shorter trails. The ones proposed seem very long.
213	Mountain Bike Trails
214	Mountain bike trails and climbing access.
215	Mountain bike trails built by professional trail builders under International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) standards for sustainability.
216	Mountain biking and additional hiking in remote areas
217	mountain biking on the sugarloaf side because of driving distance to Shumont biking trails
218	Mountain biking trails
219	Mountain Biking trails and camping
220	Moutain Bike trails
221	Mtn. bike trails
222	My vision of the park has always been expansive vistas, fun trails that aren't accessible to everyone, and the occasional solitude that comes from being there in the early morning before the crowds get there.
223	n/a
224	Need climbing access to Round Top Mtn (Ghost Town) and the north side of Rumbley. Nothing close is need, but a 1 hr hike max. would be perfect. Also do not see any drive up tent camping (like stone mountain). Maybe I missed it. Also prefer to limit car access to the top of cliffs (ie pilot mountain). Hiking/climbing to the top is good!
225	Need drive in tent camping. If this is to be a "world class" destination, it needs amenities that cater to traveling climbers and other users. Climbers are many times driving in from long distances, they prefer to camp within a reasonable distance from their vehicle because they are tired after a long day of climbing and are not prepared to "backpack" in. Also, Other climbing areas besides the main Rumbling Bald need to be included in the plan. There are several areas in the Gorge with a long history of climbing. The area called Ghost Town or Round Top Mountain is perhaps one of the best areas in the Gorge to climb and has a long history dating back to the 1970's. Access to this area and designation as a climbing area should be a priority. Right now, the land at the base of Ghost Town is for sale. This property was once slated and parceled out for development. It would be a shame for the viewshed from Chimney Rock to be destroyed by homes perched just below the beautiful rock wall of Ghost Town. This land for sale also includes part of the rock wall with several classic climbing routes. It has a large flat area (rare in the Gorge) that would make an excellent access point for climbing and hiking trails to Rainbow Falls and beyond. The land also has a lot of history attached. it used be an amusement park "Silver City" and was the site of the indian encampment in the movie the Last of the Mohicans. The plan as is, has access to Round Top Mountain coming in a hiking trail from Shumont. That trail is about 3 miles to Round Top making it very long and not good access for climbers.
226	need toilet and drinking water facilities at the Rumbling bald access area.
227	new rock climbing areas on chimney rock proper.
228	No 2-day use recreation areas; no extensions of proposed hiking trails; no ten miles of added hiking trails; do not ruin Shumont Mtn; emphasis on the history of tunnel/elevator
229	No changes necessary with a well-designed and built MTB trail system (low impact)
230	No entry fee for Shumont use area or at least just a minimal one but not the \$14 required for traditional park entry to see Chimney Rock. Otherwise use would be very very limited.
231	None
232	none
233	None
234	none
235	Of course the views and hiking are nice, but the rock climbing is world class. Hickory Nut Gorge is a destination already for rock climbers locally, but if all the rock in the gorge and in all the other areas were made accessible, it would become a world class destination for climbers. I would allow climbing on Chimney Rock Park(proper) as well the areas known locally as GhostTown and the Dark Side(north side of Rumbling Bald Mtn all the way to Eagle Rock. Climbing at Eagle rock would be spectacular. This is really all I would add.



QUESTION 10 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

236	Open access to all trails and areas now closed. Eg. The Pulpit, The Rock Pile, etc.
237	Open access to the Ghost Town cliffs and the North face of Rumbling Bald. These are two of the finest cliffs in the southeast, better than the existing Rumbling Bald cliff. They offer wonderful diversity of climbing.
238	open areas in camping areas for medicine helicopters/shelters at vistas; 1st aid kits and planes
239	open as many climbing areas as have been used historically for the past 40 years! simple drive in camping is needed.
240	Open back trail to top of falls; keep main visitor center on Hwy 64/74A/9
241	Open Bottomless Pools to the public
242	Open more rock climbing areas. Establish camping areas.
243	Open Round Top Mt
244	open up more rock climbing opportunities
245	Open upper trails ASAP.
246	Opening of the Skyline trail to the top of Hickory nut falls
247	Overnight camping
248	Park should be open for all but should be free or offer a low-priced annual pass for local residents. Wage scales are low in the mountains and we cannot afford to pay 10-20/day. Dupont Forest and the NC Arboretum are heavily by day users and we need a similar facility in this area of the mountains.
249	Perhaps a larger trail network for mountain biking.
250	Please allow unguided rock-climbing. Limiting group use (by guides or clubs), however, is desirable. Climbing plan should ban or limit bolts and pitons. Approach hike should not be too easy to naturally limit crowds.
251	Please build more mountain bike trails. In addition to the mountain bike area, a perimeter trail -- around the whole park -- would be very desirable because it would add more mileage to the mountain biking opportunities in the Park. Since riding in Chimney Rock will require most mountain bikers to drive considerable distances to the trail head/s, more mileage would be greater incentive and draw more people from this user group to the Park. Also, please make the hiking trails accessible to mountain bikers too.
252	please continue to work with Southeastern Climbers Coalition (SEC) and the Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC)
253	Please do not over develop and use solar PV and solar thermal power on buildings.
254	Please include a variety of educational components--not only programs for K-12, but also more informal educational information for casual users of the park.
255	Please open as much area as possible as soon as possible or we will either be too old to enjoy it or dead.
256	Please reinstate the trail to top of the falls- so many people like to return there to revisit memories of childhood.
257	Please reopen Cliff and Skyline Trails with minimum interference - please no more decking in the park. I want my feet to touch the ground when I hike, not wooden decking. Put a fence but don't block views - forest users take on inherent risk when hiking and I don't want access or views blocked because of accidents - we don't permanently close highways do we?
258	PLEASE! Put mountain bike trails in! That would be an amazing addition to an amazing park!
259	plenty of parking; restrooms/changing rooms; water
260	Possible more Mt. bike trails/logging roads
261	Provide access for climbing at Chimney Rock "Ghost Town" area, and north face of Rumbling Bald. Do not add trails at existing Rumbling Bald area - it is not needed. Please limit horse use - they have a large impact.
262	Provide for more family recreational options in the southern area of the park
263	Provide parking for Round Top Mountain, aka Ghost Town climbing area. Allow climbing on the cliffs of chimney rock proper.
264	quite good as presented
265	re open older trails
266	Re-open the Skyline Trail
267	Re-open trails to top of waterfall
268	Re-opening of the cliff trail.
269	re-opening of the two cliff trails is essential, but was left out of all three proposals; better to have official, safe access to the views of the falls, because visitors will go there anyway... better to control the situation through proper planning
270	Reduce driving to the top by having low pollution buses or trans. to the top
271	Regarding climbing, a world class destination which CRSP has potential to be, is only world class if there's a desinated place to camp and have fellowship. You look at other famous climbing destinations whether it be within the NPS, NFS and some state parks nationwide, and there is always a central location to camp and a inexpensive rate. If you want to be on the map for recreation, you've got to have a campground. And the campground has to be seperated between the RV's/Trailers and the tent campers. The worst thing you could do to a campground is have the tent area within hearing distance of the RV area. No one wants to go camp in a tent for the weekend and have to listen to generators and tv's running. Some places really mess up by having the RV's near the tent campers.
272	Reopen the closed area's.
273	Repair, update and Open existing trails that are currently closed to the public. The last time I visited the park in April their was at least 3 trails closed. This is a large % of the trails closed to the public. this is not acceptable to those paying the park fees anticipating the option of several trails to hike.



QUESTION 10 - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

274	Restricted access/more protection of wildlife; noise reduction
275	Rock and Ice climbing access to the whole park. It is so frustrating to look over and see all that beautiful rock and not be able to climb it (unless you pay a Fox Mountain Guide). As a taxpayer in NC I believe it is unfair that only the people that pay get the 'right' to climb on that side of the gorge. I would look at low impact options to increase the parking area at Rumbling Bald if it is going to be used for multi-use recreation. It is already crowded now. The park superintendent that is usually out there on the weekends is about the nicest lady to run across there.
276	rock climbing more accessible. I am a mother and I would love to share this with my children as they become more avid climbers.
277	Rock climbing without the requirement for guides
278	rrrrrrrr
279	See 9.
280	See above.
281	see Question #11
282	Several medium to advanced mountain bike loops. Lots of mileage across varied terrain. Backwoods camping locations near water sources.
283	Short loop trails displaying the unique features of the natural history of the park (geology, flora, fauna).
284	Should have 15 to 25 miles of MTB trails without repeat traversing in the same direction.
285	Showers & changing rooms
286	side trails to special features like waterfalls and view areas, free educational programs
287	Small RV / car camping area; area for primitive camping;All of Rumbling Bald open to climbers;most of Chimney Rock cliffs open to climbing
288	Sort of a fusion between the conservation and low impact plans would be great. If you add in the Chimney Rock State Park hiking trail system through the Orchards and on to worlds edge and the Rumbling Bald and Shumont trail systems with small parking areas and composting toilets at each lot as well as informational naturalistic and interpretive signage along the trails it would be perfect. I do not like the idea of a group campsite in the orchard--a few small primitive campsites near where the old house is in the "lower orchard" and a couple in the woods between the small pond in the "upper orchard" and the TV tower would be ok.
289	tent camping. Rock climbing at Chimney Rock, Round Top Mountain, Shumont Mountain, Rumbling Bald, and Cloven Cliffs
290	The addition of mountain biking trails would bring an additional boost to the area year-round visitation and provide opportunities for new businesses. I also see great opportunities by opening to the public rock climbing in the areas of round top mountain, rumbling bald north face, eagle rock.
291	The beauty of the area is that it rural. If you allow vehicles in the orchard area it will spoil the area to and from the orchards. Hiking and equestrian trails only!!
292	The hiking trails must provide access to key sites especially waterfalls on the Worlds Edge tract and overlooks. The trails can be long to get there to discourage heavy use. The currently closed trails in the existing park need to be reopened. Use the Weed Patch Mountain area for mountain biking and leave Rumbling Bald for hiking only.
293	The limited park facilities included in Alternative #2 should include some type of bathroom facility to minimize impact in woods. I would like to see the backpacking/camping option in Alternative #3 added to the #2 scenario.
294	The most mountain biking trails possible! Thanks!!
295	The mountain biking trails need to cover more area, instead of being confined to loops in one small area of the park
296	The MTBing trails in the 2 plans are great but for my real money it would be awesome to have a "Downhill Specific" MTB trails with shuttle access like some other recreation areas in Georgia, Tennessee, and West Virginia.
297	The mtn. biking community always participate the most on trail workdays.
298	The park has huge potential for growth in the areas of recreation. If planned out correctly and executed can be enjoyed by many generations to come (by locals and tourist)
299	The plan seems fine. I believe this plan is good because it opens the park to more people. We can preserve the area and still let the current generation enjoy it.
300	The Visitors Center should be located in Chimney Rock or Lake Lure to be more accessible to visitors along the main highway.
301	There are several access points for MTB in the park and I've ridden many different epic loops there. I'd prefer to see MTB trails on the option 1 map, the conversation one, since it is so low impact.
302	There are tons of limited use parks, lets make this a great showcase
303	There needs to be more camping available within the park. Currently there is little to no camping in the area, which makes it difficult for those of us who will drive 3+ hours to visit. The plan shows backpacking and group camping, but does not appear to accommodate individual tent camping use, which is what I would like to see.
304	This is an amazing area with great recreating possibilities. It is centrally located to many southern cities. Not many areas in the South have the potential for so many great outdoor usages. This is the spot for the State to step up and have a mini Yosemite for people of the region to get off their butts and get outside and have an adventure. Lets not isolate future generations from a place to get outdoors instead on computers. This should be the States gift to the southern region.
305	Tie in single track trails off of escape jeep type trails. Build around rock formation, large trees, water, through rock based streams and a mix of flat, and hilly terrain. Have by pass point for harder and more technical pathways and obstacles. Keep technical aspect as natural as possible using existing wood such as cedar, hard woods and rock for terrain changes and variation. Also have long easy runs for recovery and wildlife/scenery enjoyment